

## In Touch



April 2024

Founded in 1936 - Celebrating 87 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



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

### April 4th

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m.**

April Board Meeting

Camano Library

\*\*\*\*\*

### April 11th

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m.**

**12:30 p.m. Social Half Hour**

General Meeting

*Open to the Public*

Camano Library

*Women in Politics Forum*

\*\*\*\*\*

### April 16th

**Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.**

**JAVA Break**

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation*

*Bring a Prospective Member*

### President's Message

*Helen Smith*

As we end Women's History Month and head into Indigenous People's Month, let's celebrate our differences and commonalities. Our branch began with 16 charter members in Arlington, Washington. Those early days saw the branch focusing their yearly themes on education and scholarships awarded. By the 1970's members joined from Camano Island and Stanwood. In the early 1980's the branch changed to the Arlington-Stanwood Branch and in 1995 the branch name evolved into the Stanwood-Camano Branch with members from Arlington still attending.

I recently listened to a Status of Women report from AAUW National. The history of our organization on who can, and could be members, has evolved over the years. From first requiring advanced degrees, to adapting to bachelor degrees, adding the associate and technical degrees, and the possibility of "individuals" as members (men), we continue to change during the times. There was even an honorary membership bestowed on remarkable individuals like Eleanor Roosevelt who worked with AAUW on many issues, but didn't have a degree. President George H.W. Bush, as a member, spoke at the 1989 convention, joking that he was the first AAUW member to become President (and hopefully not the last)! It won't be long and we will be voting on whether we will accept individuals without degrees as long as they share our purposes of equity and education for women and girls.

I want to thank the members of the Nominations Committee who will be busy this month filling the open positions on our slate of officers. Joanne Drewson, Martha Huyler and Mary Raymond will be contacting you to fill these positions: President-Elect, VP of Programs, VP of Membership, and VP of Finance-Elect. Officers continuing to serve: President Jackie-Lyn Olson, Secretary Linda Lynn, and VP of Finance Robin Hanks. I hope you will consider answering the call and serve our amazing branch.

Finally, continuing to make local history, we'll be celebrating with our sixth biennial Purses with Purpose Benefit Luncheon and Auction on April 27 to fund scholarships and Tech Trek campers! I applaud all those who are working to make this a successful event full of fun and purpose--equity and education for women and girls!

### April: Forum - Women in Politics

*Rose Olson*

Please join us on Thursday, April 11, for our general meeting at the Camano Library. The program will be a forum discussion featuring "Women in Politics". Our confirmed attendees are Mary Margaret Haugen, Former Washington State Senator; Helen Price Johnson, Former Island County Commissioner and Current State Director for Washington USDA Rural Development; Barbara Tolbert, Former Mayor of Arlington; and Karla Jacks, former Island County Commissioner candidate. Janet St. Clair, Current Island County Commissioner will moderate a discussion that explores challenges and successes for women entering the political environment.

The forum begins at 1 p.m., but as always, we welcome you to join us at 12:30 p.m. to socialize and grab a goodie. In addition, we will be raffling off a special item. We have obtained The Pig Notebook used by our guests from Our Legacy Fields Lavender Farm and will be raffling it with additional swine items. Raffle tickets will be \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. All proceeds will go toward the dues assistance fund.



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## Future Events

**May 2nd**

**Thursday, 1:00 p.m.**

May Board Meeting

Location to be announced

\*\*\*\*\*

**May 9th**

**7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting

United Methodist Church  
27128 102nd Dr NW, Stanwood

High School STEM Scholar  
Recognition and Introduction of  
2024 Tech Trek Campers

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**May 15th**

**Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.**

**JAVA Break**

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member

Legacy by Rupri Kaur  
i stand  
on the sacrifices  
of a million women before me  
Thinking  
what can i do  
to make this mountain taller  
so the women after me  
can see farther

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/)

## Day Trippers - April 7 - Matzke Art Gallery

Lynda Buehring

Be a Day Tripper on April 7 to Matzke Art Gallery & Sculpture Park to explore the *Women Painters of Washington* followed by lunch at The Blue Heron.

Carpooling: IGA at 11:30 a.m.

Jill Johnstone and Lynda Buehring will be your drivers. If you can drive please email Lynda Buehring.

Matzke Gallery & Sculpture Park is located at: 2345 Blanche Way, Camano Island.

The tour begins at noon and is exclusive upon special requests only, donations are accepted.

Lunch will follow at 2:00 p.m. at: The Blue Heron, 170 E. Cross Island Road.

Joins for the tour or just lunch. RSVPs are due to Lynda Buehring April 1.



## Purses with Purpose 2024 on April 27

Georgi Proulx

April 27 is coming quickly and your steering committee is putting the finishing touches on the plans for a fantastic afternoon of great food, wine, awesome purses and an outstanding live auction....and don't forget the fun!

The purse procurement team has processed 221 silent auction purses of all sizes, colors, and value...something for everyone. Anne Milton has created a spectacular array of 35 live auction purses many of them complete with gift certificates from our community for food and adventure. Unique, colorful, valuable combinations will be sure to stimulate your interest in buying. I've seen a sample of the centerpieces Cathlin Starke and Helen Smith have created; they will be a beautiful focal point for each table.

In that regard, Cathlin Starke is looking for donations of greenery to build the centerpieces. She has selected grand flowers as focal points in the arrangements but needs greenery to fill out the showpieces. If you have greenery in your yard you can clip and donate, please contact her and arrange to deliver to her the weekend of April 20-21.

We have our team of adult volunteers all ready to work hard to make the day fantastic...thank you family and friends.

Set up is Friday, April 26, at 4:00 p.m. It is at this time we need all hands on deck and friends can volunteer that afternoon. We should be finished about 6:00 p.m. if we get enough help. Email Georgi with your questions.

There are still a few tickets left, so hurry if you haven't purchased yours yet.

I will be emailing a link to the adult volunteers for a Staff Bid-only number for those that wish to sign up and pre-register their credit card.

If you haven't provided all the guest information for your table or selected your menu choice - please email Mary Chesney ASAP with the information so she can update the event data.

Don't miss out...get your ticket today:

<https://aauwsc.ejoinme.org/pwp>

See you on April 26 to help set up.

## 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: Two Big Wins

Anne Milton

The 2024 WA Legislative Session was a short session, only 60 days, starting on January 8 and ending on March 7. There were several wins and several losses. AAUW prioritized and tracked 8 bills in 4 areas, namely Education, Healthcare, AI and Economic Security. (See PDF attachment specifying the bills that passed or failed.)

Two big wins were for equal pay and opportunity. Senate Bill SB 5424 will give women more opportunities in the law enforcement workspace allowing for more flexibility in hours, shifts and part-time opportunities. SB 5793 was the second win which expands the definition of family for paid sick leave. Support for paid leave is considered key to closing the gender pay gap for women, especially moms. Closing the gender pay gap will continue to be a legislative focus by AAUW in Washington. In fact, AAUW WA just reported that women still make less than men - 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. The pay gap varies by occupation, legislative district and ethnicity. The pay gap is worse for women of color and for moms. Over the next few months the policy team will be discussing *why* the differences and what changes are truly needed to close the pay gap.

One big surprise that emerged this legislative session was the passage of Initiative 2081 named the Parental Rights Initiative. This will codify a parent's bill of rights on matters ranging from reviewing textbooks and curriculum to obtaining student records, including disciplinary and health information, to being able to opt their child out of sex education. The measure would require that parents receive written notice and option to opt their child out of surveys, activities or questionnaires that question religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, etc. Both the house and senate passed it. Initiatives do not require governor's signature and therefore I2081 will take effect in 90 days. Stay tuned.

Now that spring is here, legislative advocacy will turn to election advocacy. The first step is identifying what resources are available. The AAUW Action Fund produces voter guides that provide non-partisan information about candidates positions on issues like equal pay, reproductive rights and education. Candidates' positions on the issues are determined using their legislative records, public statements and position papers. This key resource will be updated on the AAUW websites as this election year unfolds.



## Scholarship Tea Set for June 23

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Mark your calendars for our Spring Scholarship Tea: June 23 1:00 p.m. at the Camano City Schoolhouse.

We are forming a review committee to read applications and choose three scholars to each receive a \$10,000 scholarship that will be presented at the Scholarship Tea.

Please contact Marianne McGarry-Bloom if you are interested in joining our committee. We will meet one afternoon in May, time and date to be determined, to select our winners.

Applications are accepted through April 30 and can be found at our branch website, [www.aauwsc.org/scholarship](http://www.aauwsc.org/scholarship) and at the Washington State Scholarship website, [www.theWashBoard.org](http://www.theWashBoard.org).

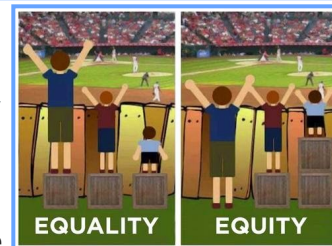
## DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

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:

**Two-Spirit:** A term used within some American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) communities to refer to a person who identifies as having both a male and a female essence or spirit. The term, created in 1990 by a group of AI/AN activists at an annual Native LGBTQ conference, encompasses sexual, cultural, gender, and spiritual identities, and provides unifying, positive, and encouraging language that emphasizes reconnecting to tribal traditions. Non-indigenous people should not use this term (With thanks to Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board NPAIHB).



### Upcoming Opportunities:

National Arab American Heritage Month

April 3, 7:30 p.m. Mount Baker Theatre, Pamua, Alaskan Inuit Soul Band

[https://mountbakertheatre.com/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article\\_id=BE5CC663-3915-47DB-A737-51D7FFD5AE76&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::context\\_id=BBEE5A9D-2B4C-4B43-8980-D1F8794BAE19](https://mountbakertheatre.com/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=BE5CC663-3915-47DB-A737-51D7FFD5AE76&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::context_id=BBEE5A9D-2B4C-4B43-8980-D1F8794BAE19)

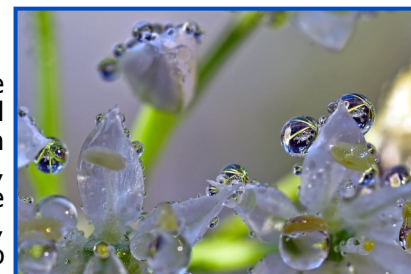
April 20, 6:00 p.m. Lincoln Theatre, Skagit Drag Spring Edition

<https://lincolntheatre.org/live-event-skagit-drag-spring-2024>

### Invigorate Our Branch with New Members

Joanne Drewsen

It's Spring and we all have a little extra bounce in our step as we look for more ways to connect with others and have an impact in our local community and our country. Our Stanwood/Camano branch has so much to offer new women in our community – working on such important issues as Equal Pay for women, volunteering to make our Purses with Purpose fundraiser a success so more money can be raised for university scholarships and scholarships to Tech Trek, experiencing the informative, interesting, fun programs that we continue to have in 2024.



Outstanding programs we have had include Debbie Dimitre as Bertha Knight Landes, the first woman mayor of Seattle, and Our Legacy Fields Lavender Farms owners sharing their story of creating their local business. We look forward to “Women in Politics” and the issues they face scheduled for April 11.

This is a general meeting that is public so eligible for Shape the Future-yet another wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors who might be interested in this program and be able to see first-hand the importance of AAUW in our community. Thanks again to all of our new members from 2023-2024 and all that they have already contributed to our branch. We appreciate every action you take and all the ways you participate.

Just a reminder that Shape the Future through National AAUW provides a wonderful chance for new members to join our Stanwood/ Camano AAUW branch at a significantly lower rate- \$70 versus the usual \$106. However, interested people need to join at a general meeting or event that is open to the public. They should be prepared to bring a check or credit card and join at that meeting.



### Tech Trek Update

Mary Chesney

The Tech Trek selection committee finalized its choices for Tech Trek camp. Twelve girls were nominated by their STEM teachers and eight girls applied.

After reviewing the nominations and applications then interviewing all the applicants with their parent(s), we have decided to send six of the girls. As always,

I am delighted and excited for our May 9 High School STEM Scholar Recognition when the campers will be introduced. We were disappointed that the two nominees from the Arlington School District did not submit applications. Definitely something to work on for 2025.

Looking forward to May 9 - my Oscar's night!

## 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



**LIKE** our page to  
follow us then

**SHARE** to increase  
our visibility in  
the community.



[www.facebook.com/  
stanwoodcamanoauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoauw)

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

### 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.

**April 1, 2:00 p.m.** at the Home of Thea Wellington

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

*In medical school, Paul Farmer found his life's calling: to cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. This account takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity." - from publisher's description*

**May 6, 2:00 p.m.** at the Home of Georgi Proulx

Empress of the Nile by Lynne Olson

*"In the 1960s, the world's attention was focused on a nail-biting race against time--an international campaign to save over a dozen ancient Egyptian temples, built during the height of the pharaohs' rule, from drowning in the floodwaters of the gigantic new Aswan High Dam. But the massive press coverage of this unprecedented rescue effort completely overlooked the feisty French archaeologist who made it all happen. Without the intervention of Christiane Desroches-Noblecourt, the temples--including the Met Museum's Temple of Dendur--would now be at the bottom of a gigantic reservoir. "*

**June 3, 2:00 p.m.** at the Home of Joyce Leak

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

*"The latest historical novel from New York Times bestselling author Lisa See, inspired by the true story of a woman physician from 15th-century China. According to Confucius, "an educated woman is a worthless woman," but Tan Yunxian--born into an elite family, yet haunted by death, separations, and loneliness--is being raised by her grandparents to be of use. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine, the Four Examinations--looking, listening, touching, and asking--something a man can never do with a female patient. Lady Tan's Circle of Women is a captivating story of women helping other women. It is also a triumphant reimagining of the life of a woman who was remarkable in the Ming dynasty and would be considered remarkable today."*

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Tuesday, April 16, at the Cookie Mill 10:00 a.m. Please save the date, bring a friend! Our gatherings are a special time with friends to share memories and thoughts we usually don't have time for during general meetings.

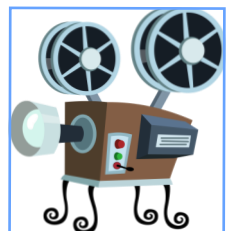
Let's share a mug and great conversation and create muffin crumbs together...join us!

### See You At the Movies!

Anne Milton, Georgi Proulx

Busy time for Anne and Georgi, but we would like to schedule a viewing of *Cabrini*, an Angel Studio production about an Italian immigrant nun, Francesca Cabrini, who after witnessing disease and poverty in the slums of New York, embarks on a daring journey to persuade the hostile mayor to provide housing and healthcare for hundreds of orphaned children.

Email Georgi with your interest and we will schedule a time for the group to meet.



## April Showers Bring May Flowers: A History

Author, Michelle Yastremsky, *Petal Talk*, 1800Flowers

Once April 1st comes around, it's time to take out of storage those rain boots, umbrellas, ponchos and of course – vases for your spring flowers. The age-old saying "April Showers Bring May Flowers" still holds true today. But just how did this fun saying originate? Today we're diving into the history of this poem and prepping for the rainy months ahead of us!



The poem as we know it today originated in 1157, in the form of a short poem written by Thomas Tusser. The poem can be found in the April section of a collection of his writings titled, "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry." The poem goes as follows:

*Sweet April showers  
Do spring May flowers*

While this poem is clearly a direct ancestor to the version we know today, let's travel back in time a bit further to the end of the Fourteenth Century, where legendary poet Geoffrey Chaucer had his own say on the month of April in his famous collection of stories titled, "The Canterbury Tales." Chaucer's version goes as follows:

### Original:

"Whan that Aprill, with his shoures soote  
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote  
And bathed every veyne in swich licour,  
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;"

### Translation:

"When in April the sweet showers fall  
That pierce March's drought to the root and all  
And bathed every vein in liquor that has power  
To generate therein and sire the flower;"

While Chaucer speaks of April in relation to March rather than May, it could certainly be said that while Thomas Tusser may be the father of this saying, Geoffrey Chaucer is certainly the grandfather.

## Debbie Dimitre as Bertha Knight Landes at Utsalady Ladies Aid Building

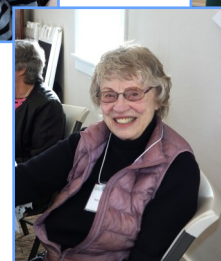
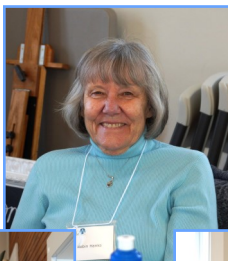
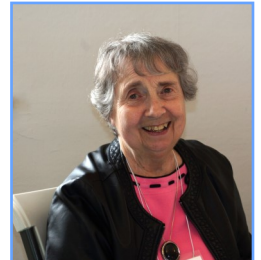
Photographs by Martha Huyler

On March 14, following a delicious serving of treats and tea, our branch membership and guests from the Utsalady Ladies Aid enjoyed the delightful presentation by Debbie Dimitre as Seattle's first woman mayor, Bertha Knight Landes, from 1926-1928. Once again Debbie performed the character in an informative and humorous fashion relished by everyone in attendance and via Zoom.

Pictured left to right: Anne Milton, Cheryl Allen, Helen Smith, Kaye Sodd, Patti Pontikis, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Joyce Leak, Linda Lynn, Lynda Buehring, Robin Hanks, Martha Huyler, Mary Ann Schradi, Judy Trammel, Nancy Voelckers, Mary Pilkington.



Debbie Dimitre as  
Bertha Knight Landes



## General Meeting Minutes - March 14, 2024

*Program: Debbie Dimitre performed Bertha Knight Landes, first woman mayor of Seattle 1926-28. Location was Utsalady Ladies Aid Building.*

**Welcome:** Helen Smith called the meeting to order and read the Land Acknowledgement statement at approximately 1:15 p.m. after an excellent program featuring Debbie Dimitre. Debbie portrayed Bertha Landis, the first woman mayor of Seattle.

**Sunshine Report:** Gay Campbell's husband, Oren, is in a rehab center in Seattle. May Palmer is doing well and has started physical therapy.

**February General Meeting Minutes:** Martha moved to approve the minutes and Kaye Sodt seconded; the motion carried.

**Finance Report:** Robin Hanks reported. She set up a line item on the balance sheet so that the membership can see the balance of the Dues Assistance Fund, which now totals \$384.00. In February she paid Debbie Dimitre \$275 for her performance at our March meeting. This came out of the Branch Programs budget. A total of \$3,881.95 was received for 90 tickets (\$4050-\$168.05 for Credit Card fees.) in February. We bought some purses for \$141 and received a \$50 donation to the PWP fundraiser.

**PWP 2024:** Georgi Proulx reported that 117 out of 144 tickets have been sold. We have over 400 purses and accessories and will make a final look through during set up Friday, April 26. Anne Milton has finished writing descriptions of the purses in the live auction. Jo English has donated 2 separate weeks in Hawaii for the raffles – one week in January 2025, and the other in March 2025. Lynda Buehring is in charge of silent auction setup and may need more volunteers to help set up.

**Membership:** In April new members can save \$36 under the "Shape the Future" program if they join at the general meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** Helen Smith reported a third member is needed for the committee. We have several positions that need to be filled for the next season, including President-Elect, VP of Programs, VP of Membership, Finance-Elect, and Public Policy.

**Programs:** Rose Olson reported next month's meeting is public and will feature community women politicians. Helen Price Johnson, Janet St. Clair, Barb Tolbert, Karla Jacks, and Mary Margaret Haugen will be available to answer questions about women running for public office. The meeting will be April 11 in the Camano Library and will be advertised in the Crab Cracker. The annual High School STEM Scholars Recognition will be the evening of May 9, and in June we will have the Scholarship Tea, which will be held on June 23 at the Camano City Schoolhouse.

**Public Policy:** Anne Milton shared this year's legislature did not pass the "Keep the Care Act", which was disappointing. A law passed to ban book bans, and another law was passed that will allow parents to have the right to control curriculum, which was unexpected and occurred at the last minute. A task force was formed to address A.I. The ERA still didn't pass; several other AAUW causes didn't make it, including the School Library Technology Program.

**Scholarships:** Marianne McGarry-Bloom asked us to please help encourage potential candidates who are in a Master's program or are juniors or seniors in college to apply. She has a video of the 3 recipients from last year. This year scholarships have been opened up to the La Conner area too. The deadline to apply is April 30, and applications can be found at [www.aauwsc.org/scholarship](http://www.aauwsc.org/scholarship).

**Tech Trek:** The price per girl is \$1600. There are eight applicants, and interviews are taking place.

### Dates Ahead:

April Board Meeting: April 4, Camano Library

April General Meeting: April 11, Camano Library

Java Break: Wednesday, March 20, 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill

Day Trippers: April 7, tour Karla Matzke's, and then lunch at the Blue Heron. RSVP by April 1.

Movie Group: Undecided

**Adjourn:** Helen Smith adjourned the meeting approximately 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lynn  
Secretary



I just got out of the hospital. I was in a speed reading accident. I hit a bookmark and flew across the room.  
~Steven Wright