

In Touch



May 2024

Founded in 1936 - Celebrating 87 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

May 2nd

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

May Board Meeting
Camano Island Library

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*

May 15th

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA Break
Cookie Mill
*For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member*

May 15th

**Last Day to Vote in
AAUW National Vote**
*Change to the Membership
Requirements*

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President's Message

Helen Smith

As I write this message, I know we are breathing a sigh of relief and satisfaction after a very successful Purses with Purpose Purse Auction. Many hours and much energy has been put into the event, and we can be proud of all our accomplishments toward funding such amazing scholarships.

First, and foremost, kudos to Georgi Proulx, chairperson of the event, who has planned and implemented procedures to make this event the best ever! From streamlining checkout procedures, following up on progress with the committee chairs to interfacing with Camano Center administration, we do thank her for such dedication to the cause. Secondly, I want to recognize some of the busiest chairpersons: Jackie DeFazio for keeping track of inventory, cleaning gently-used purses; procurement of gift certificates and purses by Mary Pilkington; Anne Milton for her outstanding live auction purse descriptions and display; Martha Huyler for a descriptive program with excellent photos; Lynda Buehring for set up and bagging efforts; Mary Chesney for working on reservations and seating arrangements; Gay Campbell for her exquisite banned books quilt and the book group for making that auction item extra special; Cathlin Starke and Linda Parker for table arrangements and, finally, all members who donated purses, helped with set up, and attended the event.

We look forward to the annual AAUW High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Tech Trek announcement on Thursday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m. One of our special events is to celebrate the female junior students from the area high schools who are tops in their class in the STEM fields. As usual, there are some amazing students this year, nominated by high school staff, who are involved in many activities/sports/academics at their respective schools. Also, we'll meet the seventh grade girls nominated by their STEM teachers and will be attending Tech Trek STEM camp at Pacific Lutheran University in July. Thank you to Lael Williams and Linda Demetre for organizing the High School STEM Scholar Recognition and to Mary Chesney and her committee for interviewing/selecting the campers.

May: High School STEM Scholar Recognition

Meet the Tech Trek Campers for July 2024

As we near the end of this academic year, the results of our efforts for past months and years are realized. Please join us on Thursday, May 9 at Stanwood United Methodist Church to see the result of your hard work as we honor the High School STEM Scholars nominated by their STEM teachers from Arlington, Stanwood, and Lakewood high schools. Program begins at 7:00 p.m., but we ask members to arrive earlier to greet the honorees, their families and teachers.



Also presented this night are the Tech Trek campers recently nominated by their teachers and confirmed by our Tech Trek team for participation this July at Tech Trek 2024 held at Pacific Lutheran University.

Our program will be a presentation by Renee Ellsworth and Leigh Fiedler, partners and owners of Our Legacy Fields Lavender Farm who presented their story at our February meeting. Their story was so inspiring we thought the outstanding scholars we honor tonight would find inspiration as well.

If you can bring savory and sweet snacks please email Rose Olson or Linda Demetre.

Future Events

June 6th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

June Board Meeting

Location to be announced

June 18th

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA Break

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member

June 23rd

Sunday

1:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting and
Scholarship Tea

Camano City Schoolhouse



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/)



Meet Our Trek Tech Winners

Mary Chesney

Don't forget to put Thursday 7:00 p.m., May 9, at the United Methodist church in Stanwood on your calendar. Church is located at 27128 102nd Dr NW, Stanwood.

This is your chance to meet the campers and their families before they attend Tech Trek camp.

AAUW Funds: Fulfilling April's Promise

Jackie DeFazio

"April is a promise that May is bound to keep," said Hal Borland, American writer, journalist and naturalist—a thought that struck me as particularly appropriate for our branch as we reflect on the success of *PWP 2024* and look forward to using the funds raised in April to support local scholarships, Tech Trek camperships, and national AAUW programs like the American Fellowship Fund.



In May and June, we'll have opportunities to meet in person the young women and girls who will be receiving this year's camperships and scholarships, an experience that always reminds me of the importance of all the work that goes into raising those funds. Less obvious to us may be the results of the funds we contribute to AAUW at the national level.

The American Fellowship Fund is AAUW's largest fellowship program and the oldest non-institutional source of graduate funding for women in the United States. Awards support women scholars who are pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks. Here are just three of the women who have received AAUW American Fellowships over the years:

Rachel Hoffstadt, 1929-30 AAUW American Fellow, a professor of microbiology at the University of Washington Medical School and a bacteriologist who helped develop an oral vaccine for typhoid, which was essential in eliminating the disease as a major cause of death.

Hanna Holborn Gray, 1954-55 AAUW American Fellow, the first female president of a major university. She led the University of Chicago from 1978-1993. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, Gray remains one of the nation's most respected academic leaders and trailblazers in higher education.

Judith Resnik, 1975-76 AAUW American Fellow, the second American woman in space and a crew member of the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle. She was also an electrical engineer, software engineer, biomedical engineer, and pilot.

Need further inspiration? Go to www.aauw.org to see the entire list of current and past American Fellows and their accomplishments. They couldn't have done what they did without women like us who helped raise the money for their fellowships!

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)

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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: Election Advocacy

Anne Milton

In the previous month's article on public policy, I concluded that AAUW is transitioning from legislative advocacy to election advocacy in its priorities, focus and campaigning energies. Being nonpartisan, AAUW cannot endorse candidates but can endorse bills, referendums and initiatives. AAUW-WA is now opposed to 3 initiatives that emerged in the last legislative session and they will appear on the Washington ballot in November for approval or rejection. This article will summarize these three initiatives. The policy team is focusing on these due to the concern for the health of our state, education funding and climate priorities.

I-2124: Today with the WA Cares Program, Washingtonians have an affordable guaranteed benefit to help cover the costs of long-term care. These services include home care aide, wheelchairs and equipment, home modifications and residential care. We know that these long-term expenses are not covered by traditional health insurance or Medicare, and for most people Social Security isn't enough to cover this expense. I-2124 will take away \$8 billion from WA Cares, leaving people at the mercy of for-profit insurance companies. Millions will lose their long-term care benefits-and have to pay out of pocket for care or drain their savings to qualify for Medicaid. (**Vote NO on I-2124 – "Don't take away our long-term benefits".**)

I-2109: this initiative would repeal the modest 7% capital gains tax, giving a tax break to about 4,000 of Washington's mega millionaires and billionaires. If passed, it would cut more than \$5 billion over 6 years from our education, childcare and early learning arenas. Consequently, it would put more pressure on the rest of us to make up the difference through property and sales taxes. (**Vote NO on I-2109 which repeals the Capital Gain Tax.**)

I-2117: The Climate Commitment Act (CCA) would be repealed and this was signed into law in 2021. In it's first year of operation, the CCA generated more than \$2 billion in projects for safer and more efficient transportation, clean energy transitions and support for communities to adapt to the climate crisis. (**Vote NO on I-2127 to preserve climate investments and reduce air pollution.**)

Over the next few months, there will be several opportunities through the AAUW WA website and email updates to learn of next steps and necessary actions to ensure that Washington voters 'vote NO' on all three initiatives. Stay tuned.



Scholarship Tea Set for June 23

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Scholarship application period concluded April 30, 2024. The committee to choose three recipients for our \$10,000 scholarships will meet May 10, 10:30 a.m. at the home of Marianne McGarry-Bloom.

Mark your calendars for June 23, 1:00 p.m. at the Camano City Schoolhouse for the Scholarship Tea and award ceremony.

Those wishing to contribute to our Scholarship Tea may bring savory and sweet appetizers and desserts at 12:30 p.m. prior to our celebration. Email Marianne McGarry-Bloom of your intention.



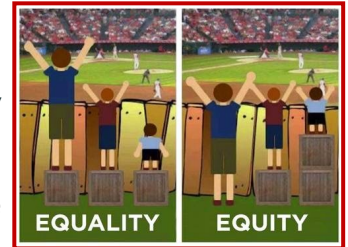
DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

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:

Intersectionality: Coined by Kimberle Williams Crenshaw, this term refers to the overlap of social categorizations or identities such as race and ethnicity, sexuality, gender, disability, geography, and class which exist in an individual or group of people that can contribute to discrimination or disadvantage.



Upcoming Opportunities:

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

May 5, Cinco de Mayo Parade, Mount Vernon

<https://www.downtownmountvernon.org/events/cinco-de-mayo-parade>

May 6, 1:30 p.m. Introduction to Hawaiian Dance, Sno-Isle Library online

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/65fa16eee3e1ee300035deec>

May 13, 5:00 p.m., Disability and Access in the Outdoors with Author Syren Nagakyrie, Sno-Isle Library online

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/65ea1bb3ac57e92800e08c20>

Renewal Season for Longtime Members

Joanne Drewsen

The good news is that there is no increase in dues for AAUW, so the total is still \$106 this year. The even better news is how many options we have as members to contribute and have fun with other members - just see the opportunities listed in this newsletter. Let's start this renewal season with a bang and get a jump start so our branch has many renewing members in this month.



Soon, if not already, you will receive an email from National requesting your renewal in May; all longtime members are asked to renew by the end of June at the latest. Those of you who joined AAUW at the end of 2023 or after have a different renewal date and most of you have already renewed for 2024-2025.

There are two ways to renew:

You can renew through the Community Hub which should be straightforward if you have established an account. You can log in at www.aauw.org where your personal snapshot will appear with instructions on how to pay your dues (national, state and branch). If you have not established an account, enter the email address AAUW used to send you the renew message and click Reset. You will receive a confirming email. Please do not create a new account.

To renew with a check, you can either bring it to a general meeting or mail a check for \$106 to AAUW Stanwood-Camano, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood, WA, 98292. Thank you so much for being part of AAUW and helping with scholarships and more.

Reminder that the voting deadline for the AAUW National vote is May 15. This year's vote is to determine the proposed change to our membership requirements. You received an email with a direct link to that ballot. Please vote before May 15. If you have any questions please email connect@aauw.org.

Day Trippers - April 7 - Matzke Art Gallery

Lunch at the Blue Heron



Left to right: Jill Johnstone, Deb Narcisso, Joyce Leak, Jenny Al-Shafi, Charlotte Walker, Guest, Sole Summers, Lynda Buehring, Helen Smith, Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx, Kathy Cunningham, Mary Pilkington, Jill Johnstone

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.

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."

July 1, 2:00 p.m. Location to be determined

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

"Inspired by the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism. Set in Kentucky in 1850, New York City in 1954, and Washington DC in 2019, the novel details how a shared interest in the horse sparked by a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance uncovers the lost history of the horse and the unsung black horsemen who were critical to his racing success."

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Wednesday, May 15, 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.

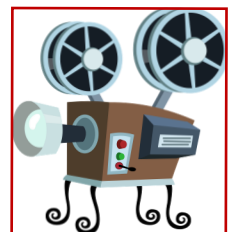
Let's share a mug and great conversation...you never know where it's going to take us...!

See You At the Movies!

Anne Milton, Georgi Proulx

Stanwood Cinema is beginning to offer early afternoon show times for their movies so we'll be getting back to "lunch and movie."

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



**A girl can
never have
too many
purses**

...and boy did they prove it last Saturday!!

Georgi Proulx

For those of you unable to join us Saturday, April 27, for our biggest fundraiser since 2022, it was fantastic. Final numbers will be announced once we have reconciled all the expenses and paid all the bills. Please enjoy the photos below and on page 7, courtesy of Martha Huyler. Just a taste of the day...and what a day it was...



Thank you students of Port Susan Middle School, and Stanwood, Lakewood, and Everett High Schools for being excellent servers and models.



Special recognition to our families and friends that supported us: (left to right) Bob Milton, Terry Roberts, Rich Huyler, Jeryl Proulx, Greg Proulx, Leslee and Judy of PBJ, and Dave Wellington.



Extra special guests, Stella Seth and Kate Hovda, 2023 scholarship winners, introduced our Fund A Scholar.

A girl can never have too many purses

...the fun continues and look who was there! More on page 8



A girl can never have too many purses

...last but not least!



General Meeting Minutes - April 11, 2024

The meeting was held at the Camano Island Library, and the program was "Women in Politics Forum", a panel discussion moderated by Janet St Clair. Panel members were Helen Price Johnson, Barb Tolbert, Mary Margaret Haugen, and Karla Jacks.

Call to Order: Helen Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., announced the raffle to benefit the Dues Assistance program, and told us that Arlington started their AAUW group in April of 1936. Rose Olson introduced the program. Following the program, Helen urged us all to vote in the AAUW National election. For those who did not get the email about voting, Katie Farrey has a contact who can help.

Diversity Statement: Katie Farrey read the land acknowledgement statement.

Sunshine Report: Mary Raymond reported that May Palmer is doing better; she is walking well with a walker and is getting physical therapy at Josephine's. May's husband is home from his stay at Josephine's.

Secretary: A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Joyce Leak and seconded by Kaye Sotd; the motion was approved.

Treasurer: Robin Hanks reviewed the financial reports for March. In March we paid \$50 for use of the Utsalady Ladies Aid building, and \$1000 for the balance of the facility rental for Camano Center. On March 25, a check for \$9600 was sent to AAUW Special Projects Fund to cover six students for Tech Trek. We received deposits from Greater Giving for 39 tickets in March for a total of \$1635.48, a donation to PWP from Jackie-Lyn Olson, and an anonymous donation of \$1,734 for Tech Trek.

PWP: Georgi Proulx reported. Nine tickets remain to be sold. Guests should be encouraged to pre-enter their credit cards to expedite purchases. 98 attendees have made their lunch choice; 37 still need to. Two raffles will be held to win Hawaii trips, courtesy of Jo English. Raffle tickets will be \$10. A Fund to Scholar solicitation will be made during dessert. On Friday, April 26, volunteers will help with setup at the Camano Center starting at 4:00, for about two hours.

Membership: Joanne Drewsen reported that longtime members have a renewal date the end of June. Today's raffle earned \$140 towards the Dues Assistance Fund.

Nominating Committee: The committee is still talking to possible candidates.

Programs: The May meeting will be the annual High School STEM Scholar Recognition, to be held at the Stanwood United Methodist church on Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. We need volunteers to bring snacks and to help set up at 5:30 p.m.

Scholarships: Marianne McGarry-Bloom has been advertising in the Crab Cracker and other local papers to encourage applicants for our \$10,000 scholarships.

High School STEM Scholars: We are waiting for one school to identify scholars; Stanwood High School has named five.

Interest Groups: Book Group (Empress of the Nile) at Georgi Proulx's at 2:00 p.m. on May 6, the Java Break will be at 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill: Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.

Candidate Forum: We need someone to lead this important event. Elaine Richardson usually does it and will be unavailable in October.

Announcements: Katie Farrey reported that an important school board meeting would occur on Tuesday, April 16.

Adjourn: Helen Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Linda Lynn
Secretary



**Do more for the world
than the world does for
you... that is success.
~Henry Ford**