

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

June 2024

Founded in April, 1936 ~ Celebrating 88 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

June 6th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

June Board Meeting
Stanwood Library Meeting Room

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.

Scholarship Tea and
Annual Meeting

Camano City Schoolhouse
993 Orchid Road
Camano Island

Please enter at the
Chapman Road entrance

**Please RSVP to
Marianne McGarry-Bloom**

President's Message

Helen Smith

Welcome to Summer! It's a time for R & R for those hard-working board members and their committees. Many thanks to these individuals who kept me on track and our organization running smoothly. (It takes a village!) This month I want to highlight the May STEM/Tech Trek event. It was another banner year with over 80 in attendance to celebrate high school STEM scholars and Tech Trek campers.

Thank you Mary Chesney and your committee for interviewing and selecting eager, engaged students for the campership honors. Several had siblings who had been so honored in the past, and the younger family members are eager to learn and experience for themselves.

Thanks also to Lael Williams and Linda Demetre for contacting the high schools so staff there could choose the top female students in the STEM fields. We are proud to add this award to their resumes when applying to universities in the future. Our program from Our Legacy Fields Lavender Farm was engaging and inspirational for those heading to future educational pursuits.

As my year as your local president comes to an end, I know you will continue to support those in leadership in our energetic branch. Thank you to all who put in efforts this year to make our auction such a success as well as keeping the organization running smoothly. We work well together and it has paid off!

As a closing note I wish to share the National membership vote did not achieve the 2/3 vote and did not pass. The National membership college requirement remains in effect.

I hope all your plans and visitors are delightful this summer and hope to see you at the Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 23 at Camano Schoolhouse and the kickoff BBQ on August 8.

June: Scholarship Tea & Annual Meeting

Rose Olson/Marianne McGarry-Bloom

A big thank you to the Scholarship Committee members for their many hours of help to choose our three recipients of our AAUW Stanwood-Camano 2024 \$10,000 university scholarships. Linda Demetre, Lynda Buehring, Patti Pontikis, Nancy Roberts, Joanne Drewsen and Cheryl Allen read and prioritized thirteen candidates' applications. It was a lengthy process, but three women were chosen and will participate in our June Scholarship Tea.



Milla Miller, Ansley LaLone, Samantha Fozard and their families will be introduced and honored Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic Camano City Schoolhouse. Following our scholarship presentation will be our annual meeting at which we elect our 2024-25 board and vote to approve the 2024-25 operating budget.

Those of you who wish to contribute to our Tea by supplying tea sandwiches, finger foods, flowers, punch, etc. please contact Marianne McGarry-Bloom via email or phone. Please RSVP via email or phone so she can establish the guest count for refreshments.

Camano City Schoolhouse, 993 Orchid Rd, Camano Island. Please enter at Chapman Road entrance.

See page 4 for the slate of 2024-25 officers.

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Future Events

Please watch for email updates of these July and August events:

Thursday, July 18th

Tech Trek Visitor's Day

Attend core classes via a tour through the 2 Educational and Science Buildings and with 7 or 8 core classes offered, break for lunch off campus or use PLU dining facilities, a few hours of instruction in the afternoon, and you are welcome to stay for Professional Women's night which wraps up about 8:30 pm.

Thursday, August 1st

August Leadership

Date to be confirmed.

Year's BBQ Kickoff

August 8th

Thursday, 4:00 p.m.

Camano Hills Pavilion

Kick off the new year with new President, Jackie-Lyn Olson, at our August BBQ. Guests are welcome.

August 20th

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA Break at the Cookie Mill

Coffee and Conversation



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/>

Off to Tech Trek They Go

Mary Chesney



Annalie Moore, Port Susan Middle
Victoria Mugleston, Port Susan Middle
Bomin Kim, Stanwood



Jade Navarro, Port Susan Middle
Sophie Moore, Port Susan Middle
Pietra Miller, Port Susan Middle

If you were able to attend the May meeting, you met our six Tech Trek campers for this year. You have another chance to meet them in September when they return to share with us what they experienced at camp.

I want to share some wonderful information with you. At the May meeting, a dad of one of the former campers came over to talk to me. He expressed his sincere gratitude for our Branch choosing and sending his daughter to camp. He said it made an enormous difference in her life. She is now at university pursuing a science-based degree and feeling very confident about her choice. Per the father, this is because of what she was exposed to at camp. Your donations do make a difference.

Renewal Season for Longtime Members

Joanne Drewsen

Purses with Purpose helped us add four new members to our branch. They had so much fun and with an understanding of our AAUW mission, they wanted to join us. Welcome to: KATE HOVDA, NANCY RUSSELL, DEBORAH NARCISSO, and MARCIA WOODWARD. We have a couple more that are pondering the idea of joining as well.



As always, we have many options as members to contribute and have fun with other members – our educational, enlightening monthly programs, scholarships for university students, Tech Trek, honoring high school STEM scholars, Book Group, Daytripper's, and our impact on public policy in our State and at the national level.

We appreciate everyone who has already renewed and encourage others to renew as soon as possible. There will be no increase in dues for 2024-25 AAUW; renewal remains \$106. All longtime members are asked to renew by the end of June at the latest. AAUW National should be sending you renewal notices via email. 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 for 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.

Our Stanwood/Camano branch recognizes that the combination of AAUW, AAUW-Washington and Branch dues can be a significant expenditure for some renewing members, therefore, please let the Membership Chair (Joanne Drewsen), Treasurer (Robin Hanks), or President (Helen Smith) know if you or others would benefit for Dues Assistance. We want to make sure that everyone interested in renewing has assistance to do that, if needed.

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: Update Summary

Anne Milton



The November election is around the corner and AAUW is diligently preparing guides, fact sheets, voting records, support letters, etc. Politicians and policy makers routinely make decisions about issues that directly affect women and families, including our paychecks, access to reproductive health care and education funding. To create real change, women must assert their voices and the most powerful place to chime in is at the polls.

Title IX: An incredible example of how your voices and input can change legislation is with the new **Title IX rules**. They are a major win for students. The changes are designed to empower students and educators to better understand and prevent sex-based discrimination and harassment, provide confidential reporting and support options, and improve reporting and resources. The updated laws go into effect on August 1. Why are these changes important? The cost of reporting sexual violence in schools has hurt the students tremendously. Nearly 40% of survivors who report to their school will be pushed out of education. 10% will drop out of school and 70% of survivors who report say the process jeopardized their safety and privacy. Additionally, 15% of survivors are punished or threatened with punishment by their school for reporting.

It has been found that most of the harassment students experience occurs off campus and the new rules will address harassment that occurs off school grounds as well. Schools can no longer respond with deliberate indifference to student reports. They must take prompt and effective action, provide supportive measures, accommodations and resources. Changes have been updated in the investigation aspects so that students do not experience reliving the trauma when dealing with school officials. In the area of pregnancy protections, the Title IX updates ensure that students must be informed of their rights to accommodations like bathroom breaks, desks that fit, lactation areas that are safe, clean and not bathrooms. Athletics was not proposed in the 2022 rulings. AAUW has submitted comments to the Department of Education requesting to swiftly release a Title IX athletics' rule that affirms the right of all students, including transgender, non-binary and intersex students to participate in sports as part of their education.

Ballot Initiatives: The AAUW-WA policy team believe that one of the ballot initiatives (I-2124) has been referred to as a tax issue but is truly a healthcare and long term care insurance need. Essentially, many people think they are already paying for long term care insurance through the Medicare payroll tax. Medicare does not cover long term or supportive care. The 'WA Cares' Program is a social Washington state program that is used more by women due to their longevity and role as caregivers and is at risk. AAUW-WA and forty other advocacy groups are recommending a NO on 'I-2124' this November and are recommending to National that long term care be added to public policy priorities.

Legislation: The protection of reproductive rights including access to contraceptive care, abortion, sexual health education and family planning services has been an unwavering AAUW policy since 1977. The WHPA (Women's Health Protection Act) would take the principles of Roe vs. Wade and make them federal law. It didn't pass the Senate but public outcry continues for federal legislation on abortion protections. One of the tools provided by AAUW is the 'Congressional Voting Record' funded by the AAUW Action Fund. With this resource, you can learn where your elected officials stand on issues critical to AAUW's mission and write, advocate and vote accordingly.

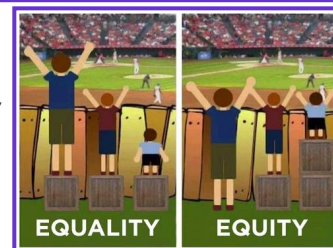
DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

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:

Ally: A term generally relating to individuals who support marginalized groups. In the LGBTQ+ community, this term is used to describe an individual who is supportive of LGBTQ+ individuals and the community, either personally or as an advocate. Allies include both heterosexual and cisgender people who advocate for equality in partnership with LGBTQ+ people, as well as people within the LGBTQ+ community who advocate for others in the community. "Ally" is not an identity and allyship is an ongoing process of learning that includes action.



Upcoming Opportunities:

June - Pride Month

June 1, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Stanwood-Camano Pride, Freedom Park, Camano Island

<https://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanopride/>

June 8, 7:30 p.m. Pride Anthems, a Vibrant Musical Journey From 1969-Today, Mount Baker Theatre, Bellingham

https://mountbakertheatre.com/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=1E4BF09D-FBD1-432E-9AEB-235D537516AB&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::context_id=A7085CF5-59F1-44BD-BD7E-E0BDD789FBA3

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June 11, 6:00 p.m. A Space for Black History, Sno-Isle Library Online

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/65da32402038232f007a8790>

June 19 - Juneteenth

June 20, 11:00 a.m. Systemic Racism in the American Education System with Author Tiffany Jewell

Sno-Isle Library Online <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/65fdbb1290b60b330037e671>

June 22, 11:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Juneteenth Celebration

Willis D. Tucker Park, 6705 Puget Park Dr., Snohomish

Sponsored by NAACP Snohomish County <https://naacp-snoco.org/>

June 22 - Sept 29 MoNA La Conner, Somos/We Are

<https://www.monamuseum.org/outside-in-gallery-upcoming-shows>

June 25, 6:30 p.m. Love and Modems: How the Early Internet Helped LGBT Communities

Sno-Isle Library Online <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/663130cb05ea9f28006d725d>

July - Disability Pride Month

July 26 - National Disability Independence Day

July 27, 11:00 a.m. Music and Stories of Peter Ali - Native American Flutist

Stanwood Library <https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/65d2a19cbc24f23600061215>

Vote for Your 2024-25 Board & Operations Budget at the Annual Meeting

Our June 23 meeting is more than celebrating our scholarship winners. To maintain a healthy branch we must approve an operating budget and elect the officers to lead us in 2024-25.

See page 6 for the Operating Budget and the slate of officers below for your consideration:

President: Jackie-Lyn Olson

President-elect Open Position

VP Finance: Robin Hanks

VP Finance-elect: Catherine Massimino

VP Program*: Mary Pilkington

Co-VP Membership*: Lael Williams, Joyce Leak

Secretary**: Linda Lynn

**-second year of 2 year term

*-2 year term

Appointed Positions for 1 year:

Communications: Georgi Proulx

Public Policy: Open Position

Communications Assistant: Martha Huyler

Program Assistant: Linda Demetre, Mary Raymond

If you are interested in the President-elect position or want to know more about what it entails, please contact Joanne Drewsen, Nominating Committee.



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.

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

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

"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. at the Home of Gail Merrick

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

"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."

August 5, 2:00 p.m. at the Camano Hills Pavilion

Her Hidden Genius by Marie Benedict

"Rosalind Franklin knows if she just takes one more X-ray picture--one more after thousands--she can unlock the building blocks of life. Never again will she have to listen to her colleagues complain about her, especially Maurice Wilkins who'd rather conspire about genetics with James Watson and Francis Crick than work alongside her. Then it finally happens--the double helix structure of DNA reveals itself to her with perfect clarity. But what happens next, Rosalind could have never predicted."--

Monday, September 9, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Nancy Voelckers

Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson

"In this moving debut novel, two estranged siblings must set aside their differences to deal with their mother's death and her hidden past--a journey of discovery that takes them from the Caribbean to London to California and ends with her famous black cake. Deeply evocative and beautifully written, Black Cake is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch"

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Tuesday, June 18, 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.

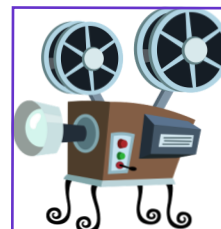
Let's share a mug and great conversation...you never know where it's going to take us...!

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.



Operating Budget for 2024-25

Below is the Operating Budget for 2024-25 presented by the Board for vote of approval by the membership at the June 23 Annual Meeting. Please review before the meeting and direct your questions to the VP Finance, Robin Hanks.

| AAUW - STANWOOD CAMANO 2024/2025 OPERATING BUDGET | | | |
|--|------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 2023/2024 | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 |
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| | (approved) | (thru 4/30/24) | (proposed) |
| Income | | | |
| Branch Dues | \$1,320.00 | \$552.00 | \$1,248.00 a |
| Holiday Luncheon - net | \$0.00 | \$290.01 | \$0.00 |
| Operating Account Donation | \$0.00 | \$34.00 | \$0.00 |
| Dues Assistance Fund | | \$379.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Income | \$1,320.00 | \$1,255.01 | \$1,248.00 |
| Expense | | | |
| Accountant Fee | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$250.00 |
| Annual Filing Fee | \$20.00 | \$20.00 | \$20.00 |
| Branch Programs | \$700.00 | \$325.00 | \$700.00 |
| Candidates Forum | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Dues Assistance Fund | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Liability & D&O Insurance | \$550.00 | \$200.00 | \$550.00 b |
| Membership Expense | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Office Supplies (P.O. Box, Stamps, Copies) | \$175.00 | \$166.00 | \$180.00 |
| Service charge | \$0.00 | \$0.46 | \$0.00 |
| State Meeting Registrations | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Domain Name | \$20.00 | \$0.00 | \$20.00 |
| Website (3 yr) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$215.00 c |
| Women's Expo | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Expense | \$2,215.00 | \$911.46 | \$2,485.00 |
| Net Income | -\$895.00 | \$343.55 | -\$1,237.00 |
| a =52 members x \$24 | | | |
| b = D&O due in May | | | |
| c = paid every 3 years/ scholarship budget pays a third of expense | | | |

High School STEM Recognition

May 9 was an exciting evening of celebration honoring our High School STEM Scholars nominated by their STEM teachers. Arlington High School nominated four girls, Stanwood High School nominated five, and Lakewood nominated four. Arlington and Stanwood honorees were in attendance for their recognition and to listen to Renee Ellsworth and Leigh Fiedler, owners of Our Legacy Fields Lavender Farm in East Stanwood. Family, friends and branch members enjoyed a presentation of savory and sweet treats brought by our members. The celebration was followed by our May general meeting. Photos courtesy of Martha Huyler.



Arlington High School Honorees, Left to Right
Adriana Rodriguez for Engineering, Brynn Stavang for
Science, Katelyn Darrah for Math, and Isabelle Bruss for
Technology



Stanwood High School Honorees, Left to Right
Olivia Flickner for Technology, Peyton Conger for Science,
Megan Stulc for Engineering, Gracei Surdyk for Math, and
Natalie Linville for Engineering

Lakewood High School Honorees Not Pictured
Emma Tocco for Science, Ariana Ransford for Technology,
Katie Krueger for Engineering, and Saya Barber for Math



Renee Ellsworth and Leigh Fiedler
Our Legacy Fields Lavender Farm



Family and friends of the honorees

General Meeting Minutes - May 9, 2024

Program: Stanwood High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Introduction of 2024 Tech Trek Campers held at the United Methodist Church in Stanwood at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Helen Smith called the meeting to order at 8:25 p.m. following the program.

Secretary: Helen presented April's general meeting minutes for approval as printed in the April newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Joyce Leak and seconded by Anne Milton; motion approved.

Treasurer: Nancy reviewed the financial reports for April. The Operating Account included branch dues and a raffle that went to the Dues Assistance Program. The Scholarship account had a lot of activity from PWP and an anonymous donation to Tech Trek. Total assets are \$51,402.83.

Membership: Joanne Drewsen reported that we have 3 new members. Membership renewals for existing members are due. The annual cost of \$106 is the same as last year, and renewal can easily be done online. The Dues Assistance Fund is available for those who want help with the fee. Jackie Defazio reminded everyone to vote in the national election: the current voting percentage of members is only 4%.

Programs: Rose Olson thanked everyone for their contributions to the success of the event. The next program will be the Scholarship Tea to be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 23 at the Camano City Schoolhouse.

Scholarships: Marianne McGarry-Bloom told us that there were fifteen applications received for the three \$10,000 scholarships being awarded. Since the Scholarship event on June 23 is a tea, she suggests that "tea-sized" refreshments be brought. Marianne will be having a screening meeting at her house to screen the applications.

PWP: Georgi Proulx led a very successful event this year. Gross receipts from auctions and donations totaled nearly \$65,000. After expenses she estimated our net funds will be about \$53,000. The steering committee will meet the week of May 21 to review the processes, pros and cons, with recommendations for 2026. Georgi is currently selling the twice-used wine glasses purchased in 2013 for \$10 per box. Contact her to arrange your purchase of 1 box or more. Cash or checks should be payable to AAUW-SC and will be deposited in the scholarship account.

Tech Trek: Mary Chesney, the Tech Trek coordinator, said that ten girls were nominated this year. Eight of them applied and went through the interview process, resulting in six being selected. Mary is now on the state committee, and she is always looking for new people to help screen the candidates.

STEM Scholars: STEM Scholars from Arlington and Stanwood High Schools were presented at tonight's general meeting. Lakewood was honored but did not attend.

Activity Groups:

Book Group: Lady Tan's Circle of Women at Joyce Leak's house June 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Java Break: Cookie Mill, Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.

Day Trippers: Not scheduled yet

Movie Group: No movie selected yet

Adjourn: Helen Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Linda Lynn

Secretary

