



# Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

## In Touch

September 2024

Founded in April, 1936 ~ Celebrating 88 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



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

### September 5th

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

September Board Meeting  
Stanwood Library Meeting Room

\*\*\*\*\*

### September 12th

**Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**

General Meeting  
SCAF Building  
26911 98th Dr. NW, Unit A  
Stanwood

\*\*\*\*\*

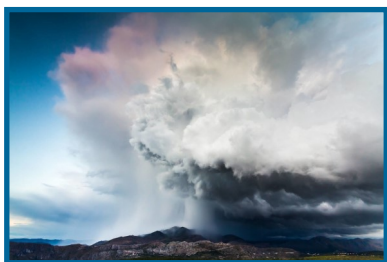
### September 18th

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

**JAVA BREAK**

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation  
Bring a Prospective Member*



What's Inside?	Page
President's Message	1
Tech Trekkers' Presentation	1
Tech Trek Campers' Report	2
Scholarship Winners 2024	2
Public Policy: State Initiatives	3
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	4
Relationships: Key to Life	4
Thank You Notes	5
Book Group Plus	6
Tech Trek 2024 Adventures	7
August BBQ Kickoff	8
Minutes: June 23, 2024	9

### President's Message

*Jackie-Lyn Olson*

One thing I love about living in the Pacific Northwest is the change of seasons! Although I love sunshine and long summer days, there is something about the change of colors and the lengthening of the shadows that brings a deep sense of comfort to my heart! We have so much to look forward to!

Looking back, in June the Scholarship Tea allowed us to meet our three scholarship recipients and experience the power of the gift we gave! I was moved to tears by their gratitude! Marianne McGarry-Bloom has agreed to continue as Chairperson for this vital position in 2024-25. She will let us know ways we can all help to keep this task manageable.

The picnic was a great time to meet for fun and to have a chance to meet some of our members' family! Thank you to all who helped make this event fun! Special thanks to Terry Roberts who volunteered to be our Grill Master!

Our September meeting will be our annual Tech Trek meeting that gives us the chance to meet our Tech Trek recipients and learn about their camp experiences. This is always a wonderful time.

As I look forward to our first activities, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for Kathy Cunningham and Elaine Richards' commitment to organize the Candidate & Issues Forum! This vital service to our community will allow citizens to meet candidates face to face and to have an opportunity to present their questions and concerns. This event is an example of democracy at the grass roots level! Thank you to all who are working on this event, it will give us a strong public presence and will support our future endeavors.

Finally, we have a strong Leadership Team all our positions are filling, Judy Prince agreed to serve as our Public Policy Chair! We still need a chair for High School STEM Scholar Recognition. The only remaining Board vacancy is President Elect. I'm praying on that, any suggestions would be much appreciated!

### September Program: Tech Trekkers' Presentation

*Mary Pilkington*

Join us for our September 12 meeting to hear our Tech Trek campers talk about their experiences at the STEM camp this past July. We will meet at Stanwood Camano Area Foundation (SCAF) 26911 98th Dr. NW, Unit A, Stanwood at 7:00 p.m. If you can provide snacks please email Mary Pilkington.



Our program on October 10 will be a presentation by Jessica Russell, Assistant Director of the Collection Services for Sno-Isle Libraries. Jessica's talk will focus on "Freedom to Read" and how challenges are addressed by the library system. October 10 meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. at the Camano Island Library.

The program team has a terrific schedule of programming for you this year. Hope to see you there.

## Future Events

**October 3rd**

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

October Board Meeting  
Camano Library Meeting Room

\*\*\*\*\*

**October 9th**

**Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**

Candidate & Issues Forum  
Location to be announced

\*\*\*\*\*

**October 10th**

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

General Meeting  
Camano Library Meeting Room  
*Freedom to Read*



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/)

## 2024 Tech Trek Campers' Report

Mary Chesney

Another residential camp has successfully been completed. Per the camp director, this camp resembled the last residential camp prior to COVID. All the girls attended, had a wonderful time and were kind and respectful to one another.

At the September 12 meeting you will hear from our campers about their experiences, but before that event I would like to share a few bits from the thank you notes our Branch received from the girls we sent: "I was scared at first but now I'm sad to leave," "...I was inspired by so much that I learned," "...figuring out what I want to do in the future," "I got to do things I would not normally do..." and "I will forever be grateful for the opportunity that was given to me."

If these comments or what you hear at the September meeting inspire you, contact me about helping identify next years group of campers.

Full July camp photo below. See more on page 7 and/or use link below:

[techtrek-wa.aauw.net/2024/](http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net/2024/)



## Scholarship Winners for 2024

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Our Scholarship Tea on June 23 filled the Camano City Schoolhouse to bursting in celebration of our scholarship winners. Family, friends, and members joined for a wonderful tea to meet our winners and hear their short presentations.

Introducing our scholarship winners for 2024:

Ansley Lalone's career goal is to become a veterinarian and animal surgeon. She is studying at Washington State University.

Milla Miller is a graduate of Western Washington University with a Bachelor's degree in History. She is now pursuing a Master's degree in Education. Her career goal is to teach history and social studies at the middle school or high school level.

Samantha Fozard is a student at Western Washington University. Sam is pursuing a degree in art and creative writing and plans to pursue a career in children's book illustration and writing.

Visit page 4 to read Marianne's inspiring introduction and page 5 for the thank you notes from Milla and Sam.



Ansley Lalone, Milla Miller, Samantha Fozard

## Your 2024-2025 Board

### President

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### President-Elect

(open position)

### VP of Finance

Robin Hanks

### VP of Finance-Elect

Cathy Massimino

### Co-VP of Membership

Joyce Leak

Lael Williams

### Secretary

Linda Lynn

### VP of Program

Mary Pilkington

Assistants: Linda Demetre,

Mary Raymond\*

### Public Policy

Judith Prince

### Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

\* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

## Activity Leaders

### High School STEM Scholars

(open position)

### Scholarship Chair

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

### Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

### Purses with Purpose 2026

(open position)

### AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

### Candidate & Issues Forum

Kathy Cunningham

Elaine Richards

### 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: 2024 Washington State Initiatives

Judith Prince



Ballots for this year's general election will be in your mail in late October. Please vote.

There will be four statewide initiatives on the ballot this year. The initiative process is the direct power of the voters to enact new or change existing laws. It allows the voters to place proposed legislation on the ballot. An initiative cannot be used to amend the State Constitution. (Article XXIII – Amendments)

There are two types of initiatives: direct and indirect. In the direct process, proposals that qualify go directly on the ballot. In the indirect process, the proposal is submitted to the legislature.

I-2109 would repeal the tax on capital gains of \$250,000 or more.

\*This measure would repeal an excise tax imposed on the sale or exchange of certain long-term capital assets by individuals who have annual capital gains of over \$250,000.

I-2117 would repeal cap and trade on carbon emissions.

\*This measure would prohibit state agencies from imposing any type of carbon tax credit trading, and repeal legislation establishing a cap and invest program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I-2124 would make participation in the state long term care insurance optional.

\*This measure would provide that employees and self-employed people must elect to keep coverage under RCW 50B.04 and could opt-out any time. It would also repeal a law governing an exemption for employees.

I-2066 would repeal laws discouraging natural gas connections and encouraging electrification.

\*This measure would repeal or prohibit certain laws and regulations that discourage natural gas use, and/or promote electrification, and require certain utilities and local governments to provide natural gas to eligible customers

AAUW Washington State recommends a no vote on all four initiatives.

Initiatives offer several benefits:

**Direct Democracy:** They empower voters to directly influence legislation, ensuring that the public's voice is heard on specific issues.

**Accountability:** Elected officials are held accountable as initiatives can address issues that the legislature might avoid.

**Public Engagement:** They encourage greater public participation in the political process, fostering a more informed and active citizenry.

**Policy Innovation:** Initiatives can introduce new ideas and solutions that might not emerge through traditional legislative processes.

**Check on Government:** They serve as a check on government power, allowing citizens to bypass the legislature if it is unresponsive to their needs.

\*Copied from sos.wa.gov

How to read full statement: Elections Tab > Initiative/Referenda > Current Voter's Guide Information > Explanatory Statement

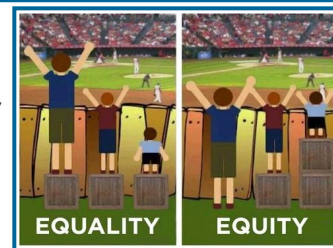


## DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

**Neurodiversity** describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits. *Harvard Health Publishing*



### Upcoming Opportunities:

National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)

Through September 29, MoNA La Conner, Somos/ We Are

<https://www.monamuseum.org/outside-gallery-somos>

September 16, 7:00 p.m. Lincoln Theatre

Film: Close to You, presented by PFLAG Skagit

<https://lincolnthetre.org/film-close-you-presented-pflag-skagit>

September 26, 7:30 p.m. Mount Baker Theatre

Mariachi Herencia de Mexico, Our Latin Thing (Nuestra Cosa)

<https://www.mountbakertheatre.com/events-tickets/mariachi-herencia/>

September 30 National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools (orange shirt day)

### Relationships: The Key to Life

*Marianne McGarry-Bloom's Welcome and Introduction at the Scholarship Tea, June 23, 2024*

Just a week ago, I attended my grand niece's university graduation from California Poly Technic University. Julia has majored in physics with a minor in astronomy and computer science and will be heading to San Diego State University for her Master's degree. Her goal is to work for NASA.

As I sat in the warm California sunshine, marveling at the day just 50 years after my own graduation from college, I listened intently for messages from the many speeches from the podium. Accolades for the graduates' successes and accomplishments were extolled. And then a 1960 graduate made his way to the podium with a completely different message which immediately caught my attention. He was being given an honorary doctorate from the school for his many accomplishments as a scholar-athlete, NFL player and coach and long time alumna supporter, and a survivor of the 1960 plane crash which took half his football teammates in their senior year. And this was his message imparted to us: Accomplishments, successes, failures; all are note worthy. But at the end of the day, or a life, none of those truly add up to much worth if relationships have not taken front and center. And trust is the corner stone of relationships. Yes, I thought, please tell us more. But his time was short, as is mine, and I didn't have pencil and paper, nor the memory I once possessed, so that was all of the speech which stuck.

In speaking with you today, I have taken his concept and embellished it with my own experience. Trust yourself, trust your community, trust the world. And have clear boundaries for all. Trust must begin with yourself. A person's greatest treasure is the wisdom in your own heart. You have been uniquely and perfectly made with great strengths, and as humans, some weaknesses. Cherish them all. Your strength will propel you forward. But without your weakness you will eventually come to a standstill. In the physics of inertia, nothing can move forward without a push from behind. Your flaws are the "push" to move you ahead. Each time you fail, or fall back, recognize the uncomfortable experience as the change point in your life to move into a new way of thinking, being or behaving. Entrust your questions to an older woman. A mentor will guide you with a listening ear, knowing that your answers are already embedded in your own heart and soul. Have boundaries with yourself.

If you are a procrastinator, organize a timeline to accomplish tasks in small bites. If you are super organized to the point of obsession, carve out a day a week where your goal is to accomplish nothing. You will live in balance, equanimity and peace. Trust your community. When working with others, trust their strengths and know their weaknesses. First lay out a common vision for a project, delineate tasks, then trust the other to accomplish the task in their own way. It may not be the way you would do it, but that is what makes group work so rich. The boundaries of community are to regularly check in with each other. Layout timelines, be honest with each other if help is needed, meet resistance with a huge dollop of grace that the other is doing the best they can at the time.

Monitor and adjust expectations. Praise first the 90% of what is going well. Allow the other to make suggestions as to the course correction which is needed to propel forward again. Persevere in your chosen profession and don't allow irritants to interfere with your desire to move forward. Your main goal is your passion for what you're doing. Choose relationships which nourish and have clear boundaries for those who intrude in your space.

(continued on page 5)

## Relationships: The Key to Life (continued from page 4)

Trust your intuition. You will work in balance, equanimity and peace. Trust the world. It has been ever thus, and there is nothing new under the sun. Empires rise and fall into decay. Species become extinct, mountains erode away. But always remember, all of it is making room for a new way of life. Your strengths are the tiny ripple in the ocean which can turn the tide from despair into hope. Your weaknesses and how you handle them can be an example for others to take the difficulty of falling back as a positive necessity to moving forward.

My final wisdom is to always live in a state of reconciliation; to establish trust again. Forgive yourself, others and the world. Examine, communicate and forgive. Extend grace that we are all trying our best at any given time. Trust the balance, equanimity and peace bestowed on yourself, the community, and the world.

Oh, and one last piece of advice. Always wear sensible shoes. Your feet must last you a lifetime of miles and trials. As with all aspects of life, don't sacrifice comfort and stability for fashion. ☺



### Thank You Notes

Below are thank you notes from two of the scholarship winners: Milla Miller and Sam Fozard

I am honored and incredibly grateful to be selected as a recipient of our local 2024 AAUW Scholarship. While completing my undergrad at Western Washington University, I worked up to three jobs at a time and commuted to campus from my parents' home in Stanwood to achieve my goal of completing my BA without accumulating any debt. With hard work and help from local scholarship like this one, I finally succeeded in this goal in March 2023. From that moment, the question has been, *will I be able to do it again?* As I began graduate school in April, I found myself needing to make sacrifices in one area of my life or another. The options were to either focus on my education but collect at least ten thousand dollars of debt or continue to work multiple jobs and therefore risk missing out on valuable coursework. Fortunately, because of you, I now find myself with a third option.

Receiving this scholarship has given me the final push to wholeheartedly dive into Western Washington University's Masters in Teaching program without the burden of multiple jobs and financial insecurity. While I will still need to work, I can cut my hours down significantly and spend time doing things that I enjoy.

As I continue into my chosen career in secondary education, I strive to inspire future generations of learners to ask questions, pursue knowledge, and define what it means to be a woman on their terms. I thank you again for your generosity towards our local emerging adults and our aspirations for furthering our education. By supporting this generation's pursuit of knowledge, you also inspire the next.

Sincerely,

Milla J. Miller



Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your generous donation. I am putting myself through college and thanks to your generosity my tuition for this school year is completely covered. This has made a huge difference in my life, as I am able to continue my educational journey without the burden of more student loans over my head, and can focus on my studies without worrying about finances.

Your involvement with our local community is amazing, you've truly had an impact on my life and I'm sure others through your support thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to lifting others up.

It continues to inspire me to give back to my community however I can.

Sincerely,

Sam Fozard

## Special Branch Activities

### Day Trippers

*An informal gathering of members with time and interest to participate in a variety of outings.*

Lynda Buehring

### 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](https://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.

#### September 9, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Helen Smith

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"*

#### October 7, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Marianne McGarry-Bloom

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni

*"Born with ocular albinism, small-town eye doctor Sam Hell must finally face a past tragedy that caused him to turn his back on his friends, his hometown, and the life he'd always known--a journey that makes him realize what truly matters."*

#### October 19, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., (Saturday) at Camano Center

**Author Talk** - "An Afternoon with NYT Bestselling author Robert Dugoni" who penned the Tracey Crosswhite detective series, the Charles Jenkins espionage series, the David Sloane legal thrillers, "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell", "The World Played Chess" and many others.

Seaport Books from La Conner will be on hand to sell books. Robert's next release in October is "Beyond Reasonable Doubt". Copies will be available for sale. Dugoni will be available for autographs. Sponsored by Camano Island Library Friends. No admission charge. Refreshments will be served.

#### November 4, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Chesney

*Please RSVP directly to Mary via email by October 15 if you wish to attend the luncheon she is serving before the discussion*

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

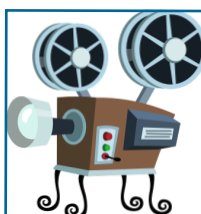
*"Winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for fiction "Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, Demon Copperhead is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities."*

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



Next **JAVA Break** will be Wednesday, September 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

Your movie team has been checking weekly for just the right movie; your suggestions are encouraged. Hoping to return to early afternoon show times for their movies preceded by lunch.

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





**Tech Trek 2024 Adventures**  
Photos courtesy of [techtrek-wa.aauw.net](http://techtrek-wa.aauw.net)





## August BBQ Kickoff

Nineteen members came together with their guests at the Camano Hills Picnic Shelter for our annual kickoff barbeque on August 8. Lots of fun conversation and meeting of friends and family. Enjoy the photos below taken by Martha Huyler.

### Stanwood Camano AAUW Picnic 2024



Greg and Jackie-Lyn Olson



Nancy Russell Mary Raymond



Greg and Georgi Proulx



Dave and Thea Wellington



Joyce and Don Leak



Terry and Nancy Roberts



Sue Jarvis and Cathlin Starke



Judy and Jack Trammell



Lael Williams and Freya



Mary Chesney



Helen Smith



Mary Pilkington



Patti Pontakis and Lynda Beuhring



Jackie DeFazio



Frank DeFazio



Richard and Robin Hanks



Martha and Rich Huyler

A good time was had by all!  
Thanks to Mary Pilkington for organizing the picnic.



## Annual Meeting Minutes - June 23, 2024

**Program:** Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting, Camano City School House and Fire Hall

**Call to Order:** Jackie-Lyn Olson called the meeting to order at 2:27 p.m.

**Honorees:** The names of three outstanding members were announced: Anne Milton for her work with Public Policy, Rose Olson for her support of programs, and Cathlin Stark for her work with PWP business contributions.

**Secretary:** Kathy Cunningham moved that the minutes from the May 9 general meeting be approved as printed in the June newsletter. Joyce Leak seconded and the motion was approved.

**Treasurer:** Robin Hanks reviewed the financial reports for May. We started the month of May with \$51,402.53 in assets and \$152 in liabilities and ended the month of May with \$91,769.65 in total assets after receiving proceeds from PWP.

The 2024-2025 Operating Budget was presented by Robin. Martha Huyler motioned to approve, and Nancy Roberts seconded; motion approved.

### Elected Officers for 2024-2025:

President: Jackie-Lyn Olson

VP Programs: Mary Pilkington

VP Finance-elect: Cathy Massimino

Secretary: Linda Lynn

VP Finance: Robin Hanks

CO-VP Membership: Lael Williams and Joyce Leak

The President Elect position is still open. Jackie DeFazio moved to accept the elected officers, and Kathy Cunningham seconded; the motion was approved.

### Appointed Officers for 2024-2025:

Public Policy Chair: Judy Prince (Updated 9/1/24)

Program Assistant: Linda Demetre, Mary Raymond

Communications: Georgi Proulx

Communications Assistant: Martha Huyler

**Signature Card Approval:** Rose Olson moved to approve the newly elected President (Jackie-Lyn Olson), VP Finance (Robin Hanks) and VP Finance-elect (Catherine Massimino) as signers on our accounts at Coastal Bank for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Jacki Defazio seconded; the motion was carried.

**Sunshine Report:** Mary Raymond told us that May Palmer is home after a stay at Josephine's.

**Membership:** Joanne Drewsen reported. Thirteen members have still not renewed. There has been some difficulty with the online renewal program, which may be causing some problems. We have a new member who was in attendance: Karen Walden.

**Programs:** Rose Olson thanked everyone for their help and announced that the annual picnic will be held on August 8.

**Candidate Forum:** Kathy Cunningham has volunteered to chair. The tentative date is on Wednesday, October 9.

**DEI:** Katie Farrey read the diversity statement and told us that she would be focusing on neurodiversity this next year.

**Public Policy:** This is a good entry position and involves tracking state and national pertinent news and legislation and writing a monthly article in the newsletter.

**PWP:** Georgi reported that the numbers are still not final, but there was approximately \$59,000 in income and \$15,000 in expenses, for a possible profit of about \$45,000. She brought unsold purses and wine glasses to sell at this meeting.

**Tech Trek:** Georgi informed us that there will be a Visitors Day in July, where anyone can go to PLU and spend the day there.

**Communication:** Georgi is maintaining the website and producing the newsletter. She has joined the state communication team, and she and Martha Huyler are reinstating the "Meet the Members" article in the newsletter. They will be sending out emails over the summer.

### Interest Groups:

**Book Club:** Gail Merrick's house on July 1 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss Horse

**Java meeting:** Wednesday, July 17 at the Cookie Mill at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Jackie-Lyn Olson adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Linda Lynn  
Secretary



Every child is gifted.  
They just open their  
packages at  
different times.