



# Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

## In Touch

June 2025

Founded April 16, 1936 - Celebrating 89 Years Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



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

### June 5th

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

June Board Meeting  
SCAF Meeting Room

\*\*\*\*\*

### June 17th

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

#### JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation  
Bring a Prospective Member*

\*\*\*\*\*

### June 29th

**Sunday**

**1:00 p.m.**

Annual Meeting and  
Scholarship Tea  
Camano City Schoolhouse

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### July 16th

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

#### JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation*

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### President's Message

*Jackie-Lyn Olson*

Thank you all for your support this past year. I have had a wonderful time learning more about the history and operations of our organization. I have gained new insight and a deeper appreciation for the work AAUW does to support women in education and in the work force. I learned to pivot, to reexamine my convictions and to stand by them with unwavering determination. Supporting our organization at the National level was a change of heart that I owe to members who know the value of belonging to a national organization. It is more than strength in numbers.

At the May state meeting for AAUW presidents, I learned more about the event, "Women at the Capitol". The Seattle branch of AAUW organized the event in collaboration with the Center for Women and Democracy and sponsors included some of the top employers and professional organizations in our state including Washington Women Lawyers, TECHNET and the Interagency Committee of State Employed Women. Attendees were able to meet women working in government in Olympia and were also able to meet employers dedicated to equal opportunities and equal pay for women. Several women at the meeting said it was worthwhile, and it was possible to do in a "long" day. I am hoping to attend the conference next spring.

Thank you for letting me be of service. It was an amazing opportunity and a sincere pleasure! I am looking forward to having more time with my AAUW "sisters" and taking part in our branch activities.

Have a great summer!

### June 29—Scholarship Tea & Branch Annual Meeting

*Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Gail Merrick, Mary Pilkington*

It is time to celebrate our AAUW-SC scholarship recipients. Three scholars with diverse interests and goals will be feted at our annual Scholarship Tea on June 29, Sunday at 1:00 p.m. at the historic Camano City Schoolhouse. At the Tea you will hear the stories from our scholars: Ainsley Allen, aerospace engineer, Sadie Mack, school counselor, and Maggie Flickner, molecular and cellular biologist. We hope you can join us for this gathering of support for our worthy scholars.



Following our scholarship presentation will be our annual meeting at which we elect our 2025-26 board and vote to approve the 2025-26 operating budget and transition scholarship budget.

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

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

See page 2 for the slate of 2025-26 officers.

## Future Events

**August 14th**

**Thursday, 4:00 p.m.**

Branch BBQ Kickoff  
Camano Hills Pavilion

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**August 19th**

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

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation  
Bring a Prospective Member

\*\*\*\*\*

**September 1st**

**Monday**

First Newsletter of 2025-26

\*\*\*\*\*

**September 11th**

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

First General Meeting of 2025-26  
and Tech Trek Campers' Report



**What's going on at AAUW-WA?**

[https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/  
activities-information/calendar/](https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/calendar/)

**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/)

## 2025-26 Operating Budget Vote To Approve

*Martha Huyler*

For years at the Annual Meeting in June the branch approved the Operating Budget for the fiscal year July 1 – June 30. Funding for this budget comes from the \$24 per member branch dues.

The **Operating Budget** funds not only funds Mandatory Expenses (Accountant, Insurance, Website), Outreach and Marketing Expenses (Programs, Candidates Forum, etc.) but also new this year Technology Expenses (Zoom, Accounting Software). With these increased expenditures – our Expenses far exceed our income. To address this issue and allow the branch to survive, the **Board is recommending an Operating Account Campaign**. Throughout the year you will have an opportunity to contribute to this campaign with your tax-deductible contributions. This campaign will kickoff in September; watch for more information in the September newsletter.

Vote to approve the operating budget will take place at the Annual Meeting at our Scholarship Tea on June 29. To view the budget proposed by your Board please see on page 6.

### Scholarship Budget

Also for years, in January the branch approved the **Scholarship Budget** for a fiscal year from January 1 through December 31. The timing of the Scholarship was based on the timing of our biennial fundraisers which were typically held in the fall. The rationale was that we then knew how much would be available for scholarships, Tech Trek and STEM scholars. Having two different fiscal years has created problems. **The Board recently approved changing the fiscal year for the Scholarship Budget to agree with the fiscal year for the Operating account**, i.e. July 1 – June 30. Since the scholarship budget was approved in January, the budget presented for approval is a transition budget that extends the budget through June 1, 2026. Refer to page xx to view the transition scholarship budget.

Please study both the operations and scholarship budgets and contact Treasurer, Robin Banks, with any questions or clarifications and attend the Scholarship Tea to cast your votes.

## Vote for Your 2025-26 Board at the Annual Meeting

*Martha Huyler*

Our June 29 meeting is more than celebrating our scholarship winners. To maintain a healthy branch we must approve an operating budget and scholarship budget and elect the officers to lead us in 2025-26. See pages x-x for the Operating and Scholarship Budgets and the slate of officers below for your consideration:

President: Lael Williams  
VP Finance: Susan Jarvis  
VP Program\*: Mary Pilkington

President-elect: Open Position  
VP Finance-elect: Nancy Russell  
Co-VP Membership\*: Joyce Leak, Deborah Narcisso

Secretary\*\*: Karen Walden  
\*- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term

\*\* - 2 year term

Appointed Positions for 1 year:

Communications: Georgi Proulx      Public Policy: Open

Communications Assistant: Martha Huyler

Program Assistants: Linda Demetre and Mary Raymond

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

### Bylaws Approved

The Branch Bylaws were approved at the May meeting and have been submitted for filing at AAUW National.



## Your 2024-2025 Board

### President

Jackie-Lyn Olson

### President-Elect

(open position)

### VP of Finance

Robin Hanks

### VP of Finance-Elect

Susan Jarvis

### 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

Linda Demetre, Lael Williams

### Scholarship Chair

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Gail Merrick

### Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

### Purses with Purpose 2026

Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond

### AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

### Candidate & Issues Forum

Kathy Cunningham

### Historian

Helen Smith

### Diversity

Katie Farrey

### Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

### Sunshine

Mary Ann Schradi

### Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



## Tech Trek 2025 Campers

Mary Chesney

Another successful Tech Trek camper search has been completed with the decision to send six girls from the Stanwood Camano School District to camp. Many of you had the opportunity to meet the Branch campers at the May meeting. If you were unable to come, look at the end of this newsletter for their photos.



I would like to thank Judy Prince and Wanda Hill for their time and expertise in helping choose this year's campers. I would also like to thank Judy Prince for introducing them at the May meeting. Your next opportunity to meet these girls will be at the September 11 general meeting following their time at camp. We will learn about their camp experience, always something that is inspiring.

If you would like to help select the campers for next summer and are available to consistently remotely meet at various times from January through April of next year, please let me know. If you want to know more about what it was like to select the campers, please reach out to Wanda Hill or Judy Prince. Happy summer.

## Membership and Women's Expo

Joyce Leak, Lael Williams

Saturday, May 17, was a great day at Camano Center participating in the Women's Expo. This event has always been successful for the branch, and we were glad to see it back on the calendar, the first since 2019. Patti Pontikis and her friend Arlene (pictured to the right) joined Georgi Proulx to start the day. Joanne Drewsen, Jill Johnstone, and Joyce Leak staffed the booth in the afternoon.



The new banner was well received as were the bookmarks describing our branch purpose, activities, and programs for the past year. We had over 100 guests stop by (about 90 of them accepting our bookmark prize). There were 12 signups for the newsletter, and a possible new member. It was a good way to garner recognition for our organization.

You'll definitely not want to miss the gathering next year....lots of women businesses and organizations to learn about.

**Membership renewal time for many of us on the fiscal year schedule is fast approaching. Watch for your email from National for an easy peasy renewal process; cost for this new year is \$108: \$74 National (fully tax deductible), \$10 State, and \$24 Branch.**

If you prefer to pay by check please make payable to "AAUW-Stanwood Camano" for \$108 and mail to P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood 98292.

## Day Trippers – Betty Dorotik's Garden and Roses

Lynda Buehring

Join us Friday, June 13 at 1:00 p.m. for a local Day Tripper to Betty Dorotik's Garden and Roses Tour followed by a visit to the Blue Heron for appetizers and refreshments to celebrate the afternoon. We expect to be at the Blue Heron by 2:30 p.m. if you can only join us for that portion of the day.



Camano carpooling is encouraged; meet at Terry's Corner at 12:15 p.m. Please contact Lynda Buehring if you want to carpool and if you can drive.

Betty Dorotik Garden and Roses location to be provided when you RSVP.

Blue Heron, 170 E. Cross Island Road, Camano - 2:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Lynda Buehring no later than June 5. You are encouraged to bring a friend.

## AAUW Funds—Celebrating AAUW’s Legacy of Leadership

Jackie DeFazio



For 144 years AAUW has worked for the advancement of women and education. The activists who founded this organization were dedicated to becoming catalysts for change. They were women who had faith in the concept that individuals working together could wield infinitely more influence than individuals working alone. Let’s remember the legacy of leadership left by just a few of the AAUW sisters upon whose shoulders we stand as members of national AAUW.

**1912:** AAUW Member Julia Lathrop became the first woman to head a U.S. federal agency, the U.S. Children’s Bureau.

**1917:** AAUW Member Rep. Jeannette Raskin (R-MT) became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

**1933:** AAUW member Frances Perkins was appointed to be the first U.S. Cabinet Secretary (Labor Department) and became an integral architect of many New Deal initiatives.

**1940:** AAUW began raising money for its War Relief Fund to assist European scholars and university women who were displaced by the military occupation.

**1945:** AAUW board member Virginia Gildersleeve was appointed as the sole female U.S. delegate to the San Francisco Conference to create the United Nations.

**1946:** AAUW was granted permanent U.N. observer status.

**1963:** AAUW observed the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a letter to all branches stating that “human rights know no national boundaries,” and urged branches around the country to support civil rights legislation and understanding.

**1972:** Title IX became law, protecting against discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. AAUW members were pivotal in Title IX’s creation and passage: It was introduced and sponsored by AAUW member Rep. Edith Green (D-OR).

**2025:** Today, more than a third of American women get a college education, a larger percentage than men. The number of women in the workforce is above 50%.

[www.aauw.org/Our History](http://www.aauw.org/Our History)

### Public Policy Understanding Our State Legislature

Judy Prince

AAUW National has released a new Strategic Plan. <https://www.aauw.org/?s=strategic+plan>

National Public Policy Priorities have also been updated. <https://www.aauw.org/?s=public+policy>

Before the end of the year, Washington State will have two elections: a Primary in August and a General Election in November. These elections are important since the local positions that will be filled affect your daily life more than national elections.

Please review your voters pamphlets and VOTE.



### Projected Program Schedule for 2025

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June 29	Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting <i>Camano City School House</i>
August 14	Branch BBQ Kickoff <i>Camano Hills Pavilion</i>
September 11	First General Meeting of 2025-26 <i>Tech Trek Campers’ Report</i>

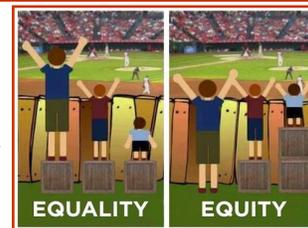
## DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

### Universal Design

Universal design is design that is usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.” ~Ron Mace

<https://universaldesign.org/definition>



Making things work well for everyone, including neurodivergent people. In schools and workplaces, we can create comfortable spaces, use adjustable materials, and listen to neurodivergent individuals to support them. In our personal lives, we can also practice universal design to benefit neurodivergent people. When planning events or gatherings, we can make sure they are inclusive and welcoming to everyone. Using clear and structured communication in our conversations helps everyone feel heard and understood. When inviting people, it's important to be explicit and make sure they know they are welcome. By considering the needs and preferences of neurodivergent individuals in our everyday interactions, we create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

### Upcoming Opportunities:

Caribbean American Heritage Month

LGBTQ+ Pride Month

National Immigrant Heritage Month

### June

June 7, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Stanwood Camano Pride Parade and Party in the Park, Freedom Park, Camano Island

[https://www.facebook.com/events/2021320241723757/?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A%5B%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/2021320241723757/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%5B%7D)

June 17, LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day

June 19, Juneteenth

### July

July 26, National Disability Independence Day / July is Disability Pride Month

July 15, The Messages We Carry, Sno-Isle Online 6:00 p.m.

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/680fc6d7d41c646031693505>

### Meet Our Member

Susan Jarvis

Seattle will always be home. My sister, Cathlin Starke, and I grew up in Mt. Baker with Seward Park as our "go to" bicycle trip. Weekends were at "the Tolt", where an 8x10 log cabin with no electricity nor indoor plumbing, kept the family *very close*. The streams, the river, and 40 acres of ancient trees were our playground. After that, we got a weekend cabin on Camano Island.

After graduation from Franklin High School, Cath went off to the UW and I went to WWSU. Ah, the late 60's in Bellingham - I'll leave it at "Sex, Love + Rock 'n Roll" so you can enjoy a moment of your own memories. I moved to the "other" Washington to marry my just-drafted love, then we were transferred to Colorado Springs (Pike's Peak is fine, but nothing is as beautiful as Rainer...).



Susan Jarvis and  
her sister, Cathlin Starke

Eventually I came back to Seattle and received a much-needed scholarship to Seattle University. After graduation my first real job was at Burroughs Corp, *the* big competitor to IBM. The all-male computer sales staff were "surprised?" to see a female join them (thank you Title IX!). While Burroughs taught me mainframe computers, sales and client management, changing technologies ended them so I joined Businessland to continue corporate sales with these new *personal computers*. I completed my Master's in Finance at Seattle University before taking work promotions to Atlanta, San Jose, and then back to Seattle.

Tech companies appeared and disappeared, so after that I contracted to Microsoft, blah blah...

In 1972 Title IX became landmark federal civil rights law that forced corporations to (reluctantly) hire women if they wanted Federal contracts. Without it, this story would have never happened.

Technology fields are easier for women today, but we still lack opportunities, equal pay and boardroom access. We all need to keep learning and supporting our sisters as they continue the fight for true equality.

Did I mention I *HATE computers*? Did then, do now – and it doesn't matter. We need to grab every opportunity, learn how to compete, and help our sisters do the same. *AAUW's Tech Trek Camp* is a great place to start!

Finally, Mom was right. Eat your vegetables, take care of yourself, study hard, and remember that your fears often become your path.

## Operation Budget for 2025-26 for Vote Approval by the Branch

Robin Hanks, Sue Jarvis

	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>2025/2026</b>	
	Budget	Actual	Budget (proposed)	
	(7/1/24-6/30/25)	(7/1/24-4/30/25)	(7/1/25-6/30/26)	
<b>Fixed Income</b>				
Branch Dues	\$1,248.00	\$552.00	\$1,368.00	a
Holiday Luncheon - net	\$0.00	\$75.82	\$0.00	
Dues Assistance Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,248.00</b>	<b>\$627.82</b>	<b>\$1,368.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Mandatory Expenses</b>				
Accountant Fee	\$250.00	\$257.50	\$250.00	
Annual Filing Fee	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	
Liability & D&O Insurance	\$550.00	\$200.00	\$550.00	b
Office Supplies (P.O. Box & Stamps)	\$180.00	\$227.41	\$225.00	
Domain Name (1 yr)	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	
Website (3 yr)	\$215.00	\$259.05	\$85.00	c
	<b>\$1,235.00</b>	<b>\$963.96</b>	<b>\$1,155.00</b>	
<b>Technology Expenses</b>				
Communications Software (Zoom)	\$0.00	\$174.77	\$175.00	
Accounting Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$174.77</b>	<b>\$475.00</b>	
<b>Outreach &amp; Marketing</b>				
Branch Programs	\$700.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Candidates Forum	\$200.00	\$87.50	\$200.00	
Marketing & Publicity Expense	\$50.00	\$57.00	\$100.00	
Women's Expo	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	
	<b>\$950.00</b>	<b>\$794.50</b>	<b>\$950.00</b>	
<b>Total Unfunded Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,185.00</b>	<b>\$1,933.23</b>	<b>\$2,580.00</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$937.00</b>	<b>-\$1,305.41</b>	<b>-\$1,212.00</b>	
Operating Account Campaign	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
	<b>-\$937.00</b>	<b>-\$1,305.41</b>	<b>-\$212.00</b>	
<b>Funded Expenses</b>				
Dues Assistance Fund	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
State Meeting Registrations	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
<b>Total Net Reduction</b>	<b>-\$1,237.00</b>	<b>-\$1,305.41</b>	<b>-\$512.00</b>	
a =57 members x \$24				
b = D&O due in May				
c = paid every 3 years/ scholarship budget pays a third of expense				

Transition Scholarship Budget for 2025-26 for Adjustment to Fiscal Year July 2025- June 2026 Part 1  
 January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 (see page 8 for January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

	1/1/24-6/30/24	1/1/24-6/30/24	7/1/24-12/31/24	7/1/24-12/31/24	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
	(approved)		(approved)		
<b>Income</b>					
Donations-non-designated	0.00	100.00	0.00	50.00	
Donations-Tech Trek	3,475.00	3,334.00	0.00	250.00	A
Interest income	25.00	65.76	25.00	91.52	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>3,499.76</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>391.52</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Tech Trek	-13,600.00	-9,600.00			B
STEM Gifts	-300.00	-288.42			
Scholarship Admin/Printing	-150.00	0.00			
Stop Payment	0.00				
AAUW Education & Training Fund					
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund					
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund	0.00	0.00			
Webhosting (\$330/3)	-110.00	0			
College scholarships			-30,000.00	-30,000.00	C
Auction Software Subscription			-868.00	-867.35	
AAUW Economic Security Fund (#4449)			-1,500.00	-1,500.00	
AAUW American Fellowships Fund (#9130)			-1,500.00	-1,500.00	
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund					
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-14,160.00</b>	<b>-9,888.42</b>	<b>-33,868.00</b>	<b>-33,867.35</b>	

A = SC Give projected proceeds

B = Six Students @ \$1,600 each

C = Three Scholarships @ \$7,000 each

Transition Scholarship Budget for 2025-26 for Adjustment to Fiscal Year July 2025- June 2026 Part 2  
 January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 ( see page 7) for January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024)

	1/1/25-6/30/25	1/1/25-4/30/25	7/1/25-12/31/25	1/1/26-6/30/26	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	
	(approved)		(approved)	(proposed)	
<b>Income</b>					
Donations-non-designated	0.00	1,010.00	0.00	0.00	
Donations-Tech Trek	3,000.00	13,975.00	0.00	3,000.00	A
Interest income	65.00	70.16	60.00	65.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,065.00</b>	<b>15,055.16</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>3,065.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Tech Trek	-9,600.00	-9,600.00		-9,600.00	B
STEM Gifts	-300.00	0.00		-600.00	
Scholarship Admin/Printing	0.00	0.00		-50.00	
Stop Payment					
AAUW Education & Training Fund					
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund					
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Webhosting (\$330/3)	-110.00	-129.00		-45.00	
College scholarships			-21,000.00		C
Auction Software Subscription			-868.00		
AAUW Economic Security Fund (#4449)			-1,000.00		
AAUW American Fellowships Fund (#9130)					
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund			-1,000.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-10,010.00</b>	<b>-9,729.00</b>	<b>-23,868.00</b>	<b>-10,295.00</b>	

A = SC Give projected proceeds

B = Six Students @ \$1,600 each

C = Three Scholarships @ \$7,000 each

## 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



### JAVA Break will be

Tuesday, June 17, 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 to share at general meetings. Let's share a mug and great conversation... you never know where it's going to take us...!

### 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



[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.



### June 2, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Joyce Leak

How to Say Babylon by Safiya Sinclair

"This stunning story of the author's struggle to break free of her strict Rastafaria upbringing ruled by a father whose rigid beliefs, rage and paranoia led to violence shows how she found her own power and provides a unique glimpse into a rarefied world we know little about."

### July 7, 2:00 p.m. at the Camano Hills Pavilion

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

"In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction-to the City of New York."

### August 4, 2:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Chesney

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

"The remarkable story of J.P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation."

Mary will be providing a ladies' light summer luncheon; please RSVP by July 28

### August 16, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Camano Island Library

Nancy Pearl, noted librarian, author of Dive into a Good Read, and book critic, will be featured speaker at the Camano Island Library 10th Anniversary Party on August 16. The Camano Island Library Friends is sponsoring a full day of activities beginning at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the opening of the Camano Library in 2015. Events include activities for children, South Street String Band, "Burn the Bond" ceremony and guest speaker, Nancy Pearl. Nancy Pearl will speak at 3:00 p.m.

### September 8, 2:00 p.m. at Brookdale hosted by Judy Trammell

The Women by Kristin Hannah

"Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America. The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten."

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

## Purses with Purpose April 25, 2026—Rev'n Up at the Branch BBQ Kickoff

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Rev your engines for 2025-26 and the kickoff of Purses with Purpose 2026 in August. Please join us at the Branch BBQ Kickoff on August 14 at the Camano Hills Pavilion by bringing a new or very gently used purse. The PWP Steering Committee is planning a special kickoff event during the barbeque...to participate you must bring a purse.

We still need leadership in selecting the purses for the live auction, setting up the purses for the silent auction on Friday afternoon, coordinating the student and adult volunteers, managing the raffle, and directing setting the tables for the luncheon. These positions can be teams—whatever it takes to get the job done.



Businesses and non-profits are willing to donate to our scholarship cause....we just need to ask them. We're looking for someone to write grants requesting funds via the grant writing process and a business sponsorship team to approach businesses in person to ask for financial support. In so many cases we just need to ask in person and they will accommodate our need.

Leadership can be provided by teams...sometimes it's easier to volunteer for leadership with a co-leader....works for Mary and Georgi as it has for many before them. Talk to your buddies and see where you can assist in fulfilling the jobs we need for April 2026.

At this point, the Steering Committee is comprised of:

Procurement Team: Jackie DeFazio, Karen Walden, Joanne Drewsen

Auxiliary Procurement Coordinator: Mary Pilkington

Fulfillment/Bagging Team: Jill Johnstone, Linda Lynn

Catering Coordinator and Centerpieces: Linda Demetre

Additional positions are noted below. Please contact Mary Raymond or Georgi Proulx for more detailed descriptions if you can help. This is a TEAM effort; it takes ALL of us to make this successful!

**Table Set Up** will organize volunteers to set up the tables on Friday afternoon.

**Live Auction Team** will evaluate the purses for live auction, write up the descriptions for the auctioneer and the program, and stage the purses on the racks before the auction. The team will select 35 superb purses to be offered at the live auction that will also include the certificates and tickets procured by Mary Pilkington's team.

**Silent Auction Team** will manage the set up of the silent auction tables on Friday, April 24.

**Volunteer Coordination Team** will solicit volunteers from our members, the schools, and other organizations to help us set up on Friday afternoon, serve the meal, manage silent auction sold purses, and help us return the space to original condition after the event.

**Raffle Team** will solicit raffle item(s) and sell tickets during the event. The generous condo donation we have had in the past will not be available for April 2026 so we are looking for a donation of an AirBnB or equivalent for use in a "Staycation" raffle prize; although, an out-of-state condo always works if you have connections. Perhaps you have family or friends that can accommodate our need and donate; we would be eternally grateful. Traditionally, the condo raffle package raises \$4500-\$5000 for our scholarship program; we don't want to miss the enthusiasm and generosity a great raffle provides.

**Grants Coordinator** will apply for grants from the tribes and other generous community organizations.

**Business Sponsorships Team** personally approaches businesses in the community for cash donations. This team can be extremely effective and has been very successful the past two events.

We traditionally put the FUN in FUNdraiser and what makes our event so successful and fun is the TEAM WORK demonstrated every day by our membership.

You do not need to do it by yourself nor will you have to.

Contact Mary Raymond or Georgi Proulx with any questions.

## High School STEM Recognition and Tech Trek Campers Introductions

*Lael Williams, Linda Demetre, Mary Chesney, Judy Prince*

May 8 marked one of the highlights of our branch year with the celebration of the High School STEM Scholars from Arlington, Lakewood, and Stanwood High Schools and the introduction of our 2025 Tech Trek campers.

Pictured below in random order are the High School STEM Scholars listed by high school.

Arlington HS: Caitlyn Calloway, Ylenia Dayley, Grace Armes, Tatiana Carrillo

Lakewood HS: Taylor Questad, Ava Stewart, Zoey Woolsey, Amelia Escalante

Stanwood HS: Poppy Hanson, Ashley Christian, Riley Hildenbrand, Savannah Tenny



Tech Trek Campers are pictured to the right in random order: Drevee Holden, Lelija Jankas, Polina Kheilyk, Kelsey Richards, Veronika Vlasova, Alexandria Williams

Join us at the September 11 evening general meeting to hear about their adventure.



## General Meeting Minutes - May 8, 2025

*Program: High School STEM Scholars Recognition and introduction of Tech Trek campers for 2025; held at the Stanwood United Methodist Church*

**Call to Order:** Lael Williams called meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

**Secretary:** Georgi Proulx presented April 10 minutes for approval as printed in the May newsletter. Motion to approve made by Anne Milton; seconded by Nancy Russell; motion approved.

**Treasurer:** Sue Jarvis reported the operating account current balance is \$3265. Scholarship assets were \$57696.

In preparation for the June annual meeting budget approval vote, Martha Huyler reported that the board implemented a policy that changed the scholarship budget from the calendar year to fiscal year. The June newsletter will present the scholarship and operations budgets for approval at the annual meeting June 29 for FY26.

**Scholarships:** Marianne McGarry-Bloom shared twelve applications have been received, and decisions will be made within the week.

**Bylaws Committee:** Martha Huyler shared the updates to the bylaws and answered all questions. Mary Raymond moved to accept the revised bylaws; Nancy Voelckers seconded; motion passed.

**Communications:** Georgi Proulx reminded of our branch participation in the Women's Expo Saturday, May 17, at Camano Center. Purses with Purpose 2026 is moving forward. She explained the Silent Auction organization requirements and the centerpieces were discussed.

**Nominating Committee:** Martha Huyler shared that our candidate for President-elect had to withdraw for health reasons; the committee is looking for a new candidate.

**Programs:** Mary Pilkington confirmed Marianne McGarry-Bloom will be setting up the Scholarship Tea at the Camano City Schoolhouse on June 29; members are expected to bring tea sandwiches and treats to share.

August 14 is the Branch Kickoff Picnic at the Camano Hills Pavilion at 4 p.m.

**Tech Trek:** Judy Prince reported that so far there will be 600 campers in 2025.

**Membership:** Lael Williams and Joyce Leak reported that everything is going well. Branch bookmarks are a big hit and a successful tool for generating membership interest.

**Public Policy:** Judy Prince mentioned National AAUW President's (Gloria Blackwell) letter to the administration regarding AAUW's concern regarding the Department of Education.

**High School STEM Scholars:** Lael Williams thanked the branch for the support of the evening. Linda Demetre reported the gifts given to the honorees were solar battery chargers with a solar flashlight.

**DEI:** No report

### Interest Groups:

**Day Trippers:** Friday, June 13, Betty Dorotik's Garden Tour 1 p.m.

**Java Break:** Wednesday, May 21, Cookie Mill 10 a.m.

**Movie Group:** It was suggested the team watch for "Lilly" about Lilly Ledbetter which opens May 9.

**Adjourn:** Lael Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx for  
Linda Lynn, Secretary



Enjoy your summer and the plethora of hummingbirds.

It's been our pleasure to provide your newsletter in 2024-25.

Your Editors,  
Martha & Georgi