



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

Empowering potential in women and girls through education, research, advocacy, and philanthropy.

November 2025

Founded April 16, 1936 ~ Celebrating 89 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

November 6th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

November Board Meeting

SCAF Building

November 13th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

SCAF Building

Linda Demetre presents "Pearl Wanamaker" - Washington State Legislator 1928-1940

November 19th

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member



President's Message

Lael Williams

Burrrr – fall has arrived! In the last month, our branch has settled into a new year. Our three focus areas of support for girls and young women are moving forward. We were encouraged to hear from the Tech Trek girls at our September meeting. The enthusiasm from the girls was exciting to hear. Lynda Buehring and Joyce Leak created a Membership Soiree mid-October to celebrate new members and all members as we build community for our branch. It was a delightful event at Rose Olson's party barn!

November is the general election of local offices for mayor, city council and school board. We chose not to have a candidates' forum this year. I know all of us have informed ourselves about those positions and will be voting by mail. The mid-term election will be November 2026 and we need to have a candidates' forum in October 2026. Please contact me if you want to be part of the group that creates the forum.

Joanne Drewsen is our Public Policy chair. Joanne is new to the position this year and presented a list of public policy areas our us to consider as a focus for our branch. See page 4 for her general information on important Public Policy issues.

This month we look forward to learning about Camano Island native, Pearl Wanamaker, Washington State Legislator 1928-1940. As we have done in previous years, we will have our Holiday Luncheon in December. This is a wonderful way to socialize and celebrate our year together.

November 13—Pearl Wanamaker & Camano Island

Mary Pilkington

November 13 is our general meeting at the SCAF meeting room. Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 p.m. followed at 1:00 p.m. with a program by Linda Demetre on Pearl Wanamaker.

Pearl was American educator and politician and born on Camano Island with strong family ties to the history of the island. She served in the Washington State Legislature from 1928 to 1940, was Washington's Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1941 to 1957, and served as president of the National Education Association.



We hope to see you there. If you can bring savory or sweet snacks please contact Anne Milton.

We have two wonderful get togethers for November and December and hope you can attend both.

Check It Out !

How many ways can you find to get involved in our AAUW branch? From committees to outings to fellowship to presenting something new....take the opportunity to find something interesting.

Contact the person who submitted the article you will read using the roster of current members to discover how to participate or ask questions about something that interests you.



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Future Events

December 2nd

Giving Tuesday

Stanwood Camano Give
24 HOURS OF GIVING

www.scgive.org

December 4th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

December Board Meeting
SCAF Building

December 11th

Thursday, 12:00 p.m.

Holiday Luncheon

Holiday Luncheon

*Il Granaio Authentic Italian
Restaurant*

*100 E. Montgomery, Unit 110
Mount Vernon*

December 16th

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member



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

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/)

Stanwood Camano Give - December 2, 2025

Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond

Our branch is excited for December 2 and our community's opportunity to support our Tech Trek program via Stanwood-Camano Give on Giving Tuesday. The project is raising \$4000 for two Tech Trek camperships in 2026.

Our project is ready to go on the SC Give website that will be active on December 2 at MIDNIGHT, yes....the event actually begins at midnight on December 2 and continues for 24 hours with matching prizes offered throughout the day. Being on the internet makes it available to friends and family around the world so share with your international family.

While SCAF will provide advertising and marketing on Instagram, Facebook and the Crab Cracker, our branch's only promotion is on Facebook. Georgi and Mary encourage you to join Facebook and share our posts that will begin November 1 and continue through December 2.

To join our Facebook presence please visit and "like" [www.facebook.com/
stanwoodcamanoaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw)

Once again SCAF is soliciting local organizations and businesses for several prizes throughout the day that will match your gift. The SCAF team is always so creative with this portion of the fundraiser. They are also working on getting a donor to cover the credit card fees so we receive every penny.

As we get closer, we will share the schedule of matching prizes or you can watch Facebook for the posts announcing them beginning November 1. You will receive a "flyer" via email that we request you forward to family and friends to promote our project and request them to donate on December 2.

If you choose to donate by check prior or on the day of, please mail to "AAUW SC, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood 98292" and our VP Finance, Nancy Russell, would be pleased to process and report to SCAF so it can be added to our project total. Your donation tax receipt for check donations come from our branch and will be provided by the branch.

SCGive has increased from 24 organizations to 31 so there's more competition for donation dollars. On December 2 please visit www.scgive.org to contribute.



Holiday Luncheon at Il Granaio—December 11

Mary Pilkington

Please join us on Thursday, December 11, for our traditional Holiday Luncheon. This year will be at Il Granaio in Mt. Vernon. Cost is \$36 and reservations are required before November 20.

The menu is a soup/salad, choice of three entrees: pollo piccata, spaghetti meatballs, or primavera. Dessert is their yummy panna cotta and price includes one non-alcoholic beverage.

Reservations and checks for \$36 are due to Nancy Russell by November 20. "AAUW-SC P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood 98292"

More information forthcoming. Hope you can join us.

Tech Trek 2026 Director Search

Mary Chesney

Since 2013, Washington State AAUW has held a summer Science, Engineering, Technology and Math (STEM) camp for girls who will begin their 8th grade year that fall. The benefits for the girls have continued to inspire Branches around the state to raise the funds to pay the costs of camp. No camper pays for attending and the staff is all volunteers beginning with the director. And that is the topic for this month's note.

The current director must step down after the 2026 camp for various personal reasons. She has agreed to help next summer, if there is a new director. If no one is found, there will not be a camp. Krislyn, the current director, was one of the beneficiaries of camp. If you know anyone who might be interested in being involved with camp, let me know. They do not need to be a current member of AAUW.



DECEMBER 2, 2025



Your 2025-2026 Board

President

Lael Williams

President-Elect

Deb Narcisso

VP of Finance

Nancy Russell

VP of Finance-Elect

(open)

Co-VP of Membership

Lynda Buehring, Joyce Leak

Secretary

Karen Walden

VP of Program

Mary Pilkington

Assistants: Linda Demetre,
Mary Raymond*

Public Policy

Joanne Drewsen

Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

* Appointed position, shares
vote with VP

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2026

Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond

High School STEM Scholars

Linda Demetre, Lael Williams

Scholarship Chair

Karen Rogers

Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

Candidate & Issues Forum

(open)

Historian

Helen Smith

Diversity

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Sunshine

Anne Milton

Newsletter Team

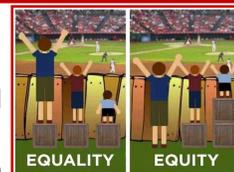
Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

This year we will focus on mental health with definitions and resources from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).



Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a condition characterized by difficulties regulating emotion. People with this condition experience intense emotions for an extended time and have difficulty returning to a stable baseline after a triggering event. Around 1.4% of the adult U.S. population experiences BPD. Symptoms may include mood swings, unstable personal relationships, frantic efforts to avoid abandonment, impulsivity, self-harm, unstable self-image, inappropriate intense uncontrolled anger, depression, anxiety, out of body type feelings, and paranoia.

Causes are not fully understood but may include having a family member with BPD or experiencing a traumatic event as a child (physical or sexual abuse, neglect or separation from parents). There may be a neurological reason affecting part of the brain that regulates emotions and decision making/judgement.

Treatment may include psychotherapy, medications, and group, peer, and family support. The goal is for a person with BPD to self-direct treatment as they learn what works for them.

<https://www.nami.org/about-mental-illness/mental-health-conditions/borderline-personality-disorder/>

Upcoming Opportunities:

November—Native American Heritage Month

Nov 4th, 5:30 p.m. The Science of Gender, sponsored by PFLAG Stanwood-Camano

Community Resource Center, 9612 271st St NW, Stanwood

https://www.facebook.com/events/1735715981150145/?rclid=UtYseqDx4ztukBAj&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F1CW2bGZZzD%2F#

Nov. 15, 10:00–11:30 a.m., Immigration Updates from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, speaker: Jenny Mashek

AAUW Seattle Branch free Zoom, registration required:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_JR9GdpaSLqzTvrCuv_Crw#/registration

Nov 20th Transgender Day of Remembrance

Nov. 28th Native American Heritage Day

Projected Program Schedule for 2025-2026

	December 11	Holiday Luncheon, <i>Il Granaio, Mt. Vernon</i>
	January 15	Deb Narcisso presents "AURA" <i>(location to be determined)</i>
	February 12	Arrowhead Ranch Tour, <i>Arrowhead Ranch</i>
	March 12	Debbie Dimitre presents "Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane" <i>Utsalady Ladies Aid Building</i>
	April 9	Washington Poet Laureate <i>(location to be determined)</i>
	May 14	High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Tech Trek Campers <i>Stanwood United Methodist Church</i>
	June 28	Scholarship Tea/Annual Meeting <i>Camano City Schoolhouse</i>

Public Policy Highlights

Joanne Drewsen

This month I'm going to highlight three important issues:

The Stanwood/Camano School Board elections, the Gender Pay Gap, and our branch's preparation for Advocacy Day (formerly Lobby Day) January 26.

Stanwood/Camano School Board elections-vote by November 4th

School Board elections are non-partisan by State law. As you probably know, the Stanwood/Camano School board has been involved in months of controversy over whether our School Board has stayed non-partisan. Therefore, this November 4th election for two School Board members is extremely important. You should have received your ballot. Please get your vote in before November 4!

Gender Pay Gap

Katrina Sun Brese sent out the following information recently that you all should have received. "**The latest Census data is staggering.** In 2024, women were paid just 76 cents for every dollar paid to men. That's an average of only \$57,520 compared to \$71,090." In addition, even though the State of Washington has worked on this issue, our state has one of the biggest pay gaps. Click for more information. See [WA Standard](#). Our State and National branch continue to work on this issue."

Preparation for Advocacy Day, January 26

Advocacy Day (formerly Lobby Day) is a virtual event on Monday, January 26, to share the public policies of AAUW and our state government. Those of you who are interested in participating, please contact me as soon as possible so that our branch can very actively engage in this important event. Our State has given us a checklist of ways that we can prepare, and I will email that to you to see how you might be interested in participating.

Meet Our Member

Karen Rogers is one our newest members and our Scholarship Team Leader for 2025-26

I lived the first 12 years of my life in the Juanita area of Kirkland, WA, 3 blocks from Juanita Beach. My dad worked for the railroad and was transferred to St. Paul, MN where I attended Junior and Senior high school and college. My dad grew up on rural Vancouver Island, north of Nanaimo in a place called Fanny Bay. I spent many wonderful times with his family in BC.

When I grew up, there weren't many sports opportunities for girls. Girls were often steered into nursing, teaching or social work as careers. Occupational Therapy was in that realm and worked well for me because it allowed me to be physically active while incorporating my love of function and mental health.

I have a BA in Occupational Therapy from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN. St Catherine's remains an all women university. I worked for 42 years as an Occupational Therapist in various settings - adolescent/adult inpatient psychiatry, adolescent residential treatment at Seattle Children's Home, community mental health in Everett, acute care at Everett General Hospital, consulting work in long term care at Foss Home and a short time at Josephine in Stanwood, school district work mostly in Northshore SD and a bit in Stanwood-Camano, and private practice at Children's Therapy of Woodinville.

One of my daughters has lived in London and Scotland since 2006, so I have traveled to and explored the UK at least once a year since then, more often after my grandsons were born. I love to travel and explore new places, to read, sew, and play in my garden. I have practiced yoga for 20+ years and have added meditation to my practice in the last 10 or more years to calm my over-active brain!

I love to bike. I have completed eight Seattle to Portland bike rides and six Seattle to Vancouver, BC rides, as well as cycling in Scotland and Croatia.

My husband and I moved from Lake Forest Park to Camano three years ago. It took a while for me to adjust to living rurally, having always lived in suburbs of bigger cities. Once I made the commitment to embrace rural living, it was time to find "my people". I attended the Friends of the Library Tea last winter looking to make a connection with a book group. I sat at a table by myself where I was joined by the amazing Marianne McGarry-Bloom. She encouraged me to attend the AAUW book group which was meeting at her house discussing one of my favorite books by a favorite author - "Demon Copperhead". The rest is history!



Meet Our Member

Brooke Knight

I grew up in Wisconsin in a very suburban community where I walked to school and played every day with the other girls and boys in my neighborhood. Growing up mostly in the 80's, I grew up understanding that I could do and be whatever I wanted and saw no distinction between myself and the boys in that regard. I played sports of all types (basketball, golf, softball, swimming, track, etc.) and was encouraged to be independent from an early age.



I attended the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and got my Bachelor of Science with majors in Anthropology, Zoology and Conservation Biology. My goal was to be the next Jane Goodall. After graduating, I joined the US Peace Corps where I served in Ghana, West Africa for three years. While in Ghana, I had neighbors struggle to have sufficient food to eat, I saw small children die from malaria, and saw adults die from AIDS. This experience didn't lessen my interest in Zoology and Anthropology, but really solidified my desire to help people as a priority. I returned to the United States really interested in working in the non-profit human services.

I worked for about 20 years in the non-profit human services. About 15 of those years were spent working on housing and homelessness issues, and several years were spent focusing on the health and wellness of older adults.

In 2020, my husband had some serious health issues which really led me to both a) evaluate whether my non-profit career could support my family if something happened to my husband and b) start to check things off my bucket list. After years of fantasizing about a career in real estate, I decided to make the leap almost six years ago and haven't looked back. This wasn't an easy shift for me, but I decided right away that I wanted to continue to give back to the community as a priority in my new role. A big focus of my real estate career has been helping older adults downsize. I often work with people who don't have family in the region and who need a lot of support, which I'm happy to provide. This has really allowed me to continue to feel that I have meaningful work. I also volunteer regularly in the community. I am the Board Chair of the Community Resource Center of Stanwood/Camano, am the Vice Chair of the Island County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and also volunteer from time to time at the High School and at the Northshore Senior Center where I used to work.



When I have free time (which isn't often) I enjoy reading and going garage sale shopping. I have a 14 year old daughter (Freshman in high school) who is a competitive equestrian. We have a horse that we board at the Stanwood Equestrian Center. I do really enjoy spending time watching her ride, and just taking care of our horse, Brinkley. We spend a lot of time each year travelling to horse shows around the Western states, which can be a fun but a pretty intense experience. I still have family in Wisconsin, so we also travel back to Wisconsin 1-2 times each year.

My first two years in the Peace Corps, I lived in a very remote village in Ghana that had no electricity. In fact, there was only one vehicle that travelled through my village each day, and you'd have to drive for four hours to find the nearest electricity, and travel for 6 hours to get mail and/or to use the phone. Perhaps surprisingly, it was one of the best experiences of my life and I am lucky to still be in contact with several friends from Ghana today. (The advent of cell phones and Facebook really helped with that.)

I have seen an erosion of women's rights over the past few years, and during this same time, it has seemed that the need for learning critical thinking skills has increased. I have been dismayed to see so many women (and other groups) taking actions that seem to be contrary to their best interests, along with the censorship that is being forced at some universities. I have also been deeply disturbed by actions taken by our local school board, and have tried to engage in the process there. I believe there is no greater need right now to ensure that all people have access to quality education, and that all people are given the opportunity to learn how to think critically and question what they are hearing in the media.

Special Branch Activities

Day Trippers

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

Lynda Buehring, Linda Lynn

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 is held monthly alternating between the third Tuesday and third Wednesday 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill. 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...!

Nancy Voelckers, 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



[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.



Monday November 3, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Karen Rogers

Behold the Dreamers by Ombolo Mbue

"At the intersection of "Americanah" and "The Help" comes a riveting debut novel about two marriages - one immigrant and working class, the other from the top 1% - both chasing their version of the American Dream. In the fall of 2007, Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Their situation only improves when Jende's wife Neni is hired as household help. But in the course of their work, Jende and Neni begin to witness infidelities, skirmishes, and family secrets. Then, with the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers, a tragedy changes all four lives forever, and the Jongas must decide whether to continue fighting to stay in a recession-ravaged America or give up and return home to Cameroon."

Monday December 1, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Pilkington

The Searcher by Tana French

"Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a bucolic Irish village would be the perfect escape. After twenty-five years in the Chicago police force and a bruising divorce, he just wants to build a new life in a pretty spot with a good pub where nothing much happens. But when a local kid whose brother has gone missing arm-twists him into investigating, Cal uncovers layers of darkness beneath his picturesque retreat, and starts to realize that even small towns shelter dangerous secrets "

Monday January 5, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Marianne McGarry-Bloom

The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

"When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is, the diary isn't her grandmother's. It belongs to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law. Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28 year old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world. The inspiration couldn't come at a better time for Emsley. With her business failing, an unexpected love turning up in her life, and family secrets unraveling, can she find answers in the past?"

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



Send a Little Sunshine

Anne Milton

Our branch has a Sunshine Committee to send good cheer and well wishes to members when needed. If you would like a card, phone call or email sent to one of our members, kindly reach out via email to Anne Milton, and we will honor your request.

Purses with Purpose April 25, 2026—At the Backstretch!

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Thank you to all of you who have made the effort to purchase and donate purses or have spread the word to friends and family to collect gently used purses. It has helped us greatly in working towards our goal.

The PWP Purse Processing team has processed all of the purses received over the summer, and the total purses we have as of October 30 is 149 which includes 12 potential live purses. Our target quantity is 200 silent and 35 live items. We are nearly there but still need your help to produce the best PWP ever.

The processing team has a request....we are finding the fair market value of too many of the donated purses are not reaching the Fair Market Value (FMV) benchmark we need to meet the fundraising goal to fulfill our scholarship program. We ask that you purchase purses or obtain donations of purses above \$50 FMV.

An alternative to this is to send a check in the amount you wish to spend, and the processing team will combine the donations and purchase the high end items we will need for both the silent but especially the live auction. Ask your friends. Solicit donations from your favorite purse store. If you need another copy of the donation receipt just ask. We also have programs from 2024 that can come in handy to show stores how great our auction is and the publicity they can get by being listed on the donor list at the back of the program.

COLORS & UNIQUE - we need more variety in color and uniqueness. Our auction is in the spring and guests will be looking for purses for their spring and summer adventures. Light and colorful or especially unique is the objective.

More great news about our raffle—Nancy Voelckers is donating time at her home in Oviato, Italy. More details to come but we'll be having TWO raffles. Thank you Nancy and Kris, and thank you Mary for your condo in Hawaii! Lynda Buehring will lead the raffle team but now she'll need more members to "work" the crowd and sell the raffle tickets.

Additional help needed is setting up the purses for the silent auction on Friday afternoon and a Volunteer Coordinator to organize the student and adult volunteers. These positions can be teams—whatever it takes to get the job done. See descriptions below.

Remaining a BIG TASK, the Business Sponsorships Team. We have an experienced member of this team returning for 2026, but this is not a one person job. There are businesses and non-profits willing to donate cash to our scholarship cause....we just need to ask them. Some businesses, such as banks, need to be approached in October for the line item to get on their budget for 2026. In so many cases we just need to ask "in person," and they will accommodate our need. Their business logo is included on our event webpage and in graduated ad sizes based on their level of giving in the event program. The logo is also included on our branch website on the Purses with Purpose page for two years....so lots of visibility.

Leadership for all these needs 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 activity leaders 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, Jill Johnstone

Auxiliary Procurement Coordinator: Mary Pilkington

Live Auction Organizer: Karen Walden

Fulfillment/Bagging Team: Jill Johnstone, Linda Lynn

Catering Coordinator and Centerpieces: Linda Demetre

Luncheon Table Set Up: Gay Campbell

Wine and Champagne: Helen Smith

Raffle: Lynda Buehring

Grants: Carolyn Spector

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!

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.

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. Martha Huyler has stepped up to be on the team, now she needs a team...please consider.

TEAM WORK will make our event the best and most FUN ever. Join in and help today.

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

Contact Mary Raymond or Georgi Proulx with any questions.



A girl can
never have
too many
purses



Member Soiree on October 16

Photographer: Martha Huyler

Thank you for the wonderful membership response for the special Member Soiree held on October 16 at the Olson Party Barn. It was an opportunity to get better acquainted with current and prospective members. We are happy that Cheryl Gruger, former president of our Branch, has returned to help with our organization. Watch for news about the next Day Tripper outing.



Robin Hanks, Wanda Hill



Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Yonna Ben Levy



Martha Huyler, Cathy Massimino



Gay Campbell, Jackie DeFazio



Cheryl Gruger, Sarah Young-Sheppard



Georgi Proulx, Linda Demetre



Patti Pontikis, Joyce Leak



Sue Jarvis, Joanne Drewsen



Guest: Emily Fekkes, Linda Lynn, Lael Williams



Member Soiree on October 16 (continued)

Photographer: Martha Huyler

Member Soiree memories continue:



Bev Maxwell



Helen Smith



Brooke Knight



Lynda Buehring



General Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2025

Program: Researcher and former resident of Alaska, Cindy Smith shared her knowledge about, "The Melting of the Glaciers and their Worldwide Effect".

Call to Order - President Lael Williams called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Secretary's Report - Karen Walden asked for approval of the minutes from the September 11 general meeting as printed in the October newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Anne Milton and seconded by Patti Pontikis. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Nancy Russell was absent so there was no report this month.

VP Programs - Lynda Buehring spoke about the upcoming Member Soiree on Oct. 16. She would like more volunteers to bring finger food and beverages, including wine. The program agenda will include an introduction of board members and their roles and a summary of our branch's activities and projects. Lynda will speak about ideas to help accelerate membership in the future. Members and guests will then spend time getting to know each other. Joyce Leak welcomed new member Yonna Ben Levy.

Communications - Georgi Proulx told us that she is having technical issues and the newsletter download button does not work nor the next meeting portion. The current newsletter is available on the "Our Branch", then "form/archives" button.

Hospitality - Anne Milton will be calling and asking members to bring refreshments to our meetings from now on.

Public Policy - Anne Milton reported for Joanne Drewsen who was absent. She explained that the primary focus of monthly meeting reports will be about our state lobbying priorities and how they affect our branch. She also said that Lobby Day is now called Advocacy Day.

Purses with Purpose - Georgi Proulx reported that she needs a team that will be responsible for staging the silent auction purses and a volunteer coordinator to organize the volunteers. Adult volunteers are needed to move tables and chairs. Lynda Buehring will handle the Hawaii raffle. Nancy Voelcker and her husband, Kris, have offered her home in Oviato, Italy for a raffle. Details forthcoming.

Sunshine - Anne Milton asked that she be called upon for any expressed needs so she can send a card. Also, she said that Cathlin Starke's memorial service will be held at St. Aiden's Church on Sat., October 11.

New Business: Mary Pilkington shared that the local American Legion is partnering with the "Wreaths Across America" program. They are working to raise money to put a wreath on each veteran's grave. Flyers explaining the program and how to get involved were distributed.

Movie Group - Georgi Proulx reported that six people went to the movie, Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale. It was good. Suggestions are always welcome.

Java Break - Georgi Proulx told us that the next Java Break will be on Tuesday, October 21 at 10 a.m. at the Cookie Mill.

Day Trippers - Linda Lynn and Lynda Buehring are in search of fun outings for us. Suggestions are: a day train to Seattle, a Stanwood/Camano historic tour, and events at McIntyre Hall and Lincoln Theater.

Lael Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Walden

Secretary



There's always something to be thankful for on Thanksgiving... even if it's just not being a turkey.

Happy Thanksgiving