



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

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

December 2025

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



www.aauwsc.org

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

Reservations due Dec 5

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

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President's Message

Lael Williams

Welcome to the Holidays! The most exciting news in the month of November is there are four women who have applied to be Tech Trek Director. The interviews are the first week of December. The state president feels very positive that Tech Trek will have a director for summer 2026.

Times are interesting and what has typically been normal in the past – no longer is. When we think about a director for Tech Trek, most of us would think - of course there's interest. But there wasn't! until the last week.

As president, I believe we need to look at all our organization does to support girls and women in education. It takes many of us to raise the money and carry out the three programs we provide – Tech Trek, High School STEM Recognition and college scholarships. We need to celebrate the commitment so many of you have made of your time and effort to make all that we do happen!

I'm sorry I won't be able to thank you at the Holiday Luncheon. See you in the New Year.

Programs: December and January, Busy, Busy

Mary Pilkington



December 11 will be our traditional Holiday Luncheon at Il Granaio. See the Membership Team's message on page 2 for details about the afternoon. Reservations/check for \$36 are due Friday, December 5 (yes, this is a change).



January 15 will have a two-fold program. First, Superintendent Ryan Ovenell will present a short 10 minute, fact-based walkthrough of the Safety & Infrastructure Levy appearing on the February 10 ballot. Mr. Ovenell and Director of Communication, Evan Caldwell, will give a detailed look at current facility conditions, the types of projects included in the proposal, how levy rates are calculated in Washington, and how Stanwood-Camano compares with neighboring districts. A short question period will follow.



Following the superintendent, Deb Narcisso, our President-elect, will offer a presentation on her ten years working with AURA, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy. AURA is funded by NASA and the National Science Foundation to operate and manage the scientific research at large astronomical telescopes around the world. Deb's work included developing a major DEI initiative to achieve a higher number of female physicists by creating programs with an impact on STEM participation.

Future Events

January 8th

Note the 2nd Thursday
Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

January Board Meeting
SCAF Building

January 15th

Note the 3rd Thursday
Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
Social Half Hour 12:30 p.m.

General Meeting
SCAF Building

*Superintendent Ryan Ovenell
presents information on the
Safety & Infrastructure Levy*
*Deb Narcisso presents her work
with AURA creating interest in
Physics and*

January 21st

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.
JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill
For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member

January 26th
Monday

Advocacy Day
(formerly Lobby Day)

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/)

Membership Corner – Celebrate the Season Together!

Lynda Buehring, Joyce Leak

We are delighted to see all of you at our annual Holiday Luncheon on December 11, a cherished tradition where our members come together to celebrate the joy of the season (revised due date for RSVP and \$36 is Friday December 5). This festive event is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share good cheer, and enjoy a delicious meal in great company.



- Festive lunch menu
- Fun holiday activities and games
- Great conversation and camaraderie
- Door prizes

Stanwood Camano Food Bank Donation Drive:

As part of our tradition for this event, this year we are supporting the Stanwood Camano Food Bank by collecting baby wipes at our Holiday Luncheon. If you would like to contribute, please bring a package of baby wipes to the event. Your generosity will help local families in need and spread holiday kindness throughout our community.

As you arrive, our friendly greeters will be passing out nametags to help everyone get acquainted and feel welcome. This small gesture makes it easier to connect with fellow members and fosters a sense of belonging right from the start. We will be asking members each month to be greeters in the months ahead.

We look forward to celebrating with you and making this Christmas Luncheon a memorable occasion. Thank you for being a valued member of our organization and community!

As we look ahead, don't miss out on our upcoming Day Trippers events in the New Year! These outings are a fantastic way to explore new places, enjoy shared experiences, and build lasting friendships. Remember, members are always encouraged to invite a friend—let's make our adventures even more memorable together.

Stanwood Camano Give - December 2, 2025

Georgi Proulx, Mary Raymond

Our branch is excited for Tuesday, 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.

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. This is an online event and anyone around the world can donate by visiting: www.scgive.org

While SCAF will provide advertising and marketing our branch's only promotion is on Facebook. Georgi and Mary encourage you to join Facebook and share our posts that have been posted since November 1 and will continue through December 2.

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

SCAF is grateful to the Floyd & Delores Jones Endowed Fund for the matching prizes throughout the day to match your gift. The SCAF team is always so creative with this portion of the fundraiser. They are also working on obtaining a donor to cover the credit card fees so we receive every penny.

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.



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



Choose to Invest in Empowering Women & Girls

Jackie DeFazio

If your mail—email or snail mail—is anything like mine at this time of year, hardly a day goes by without requests for financial donations to all kinds of worthy causes and organizations. Much as we might like to contribute to many of them, for most of us that is not possible. We must make choices.

As you make your choices, please consider the critical role that donations to AAUW play in supporting AAUW's mission at the national level — "to advance equity for women and girls through higher education."

Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world. Between FY2020-2025, AAUW awarded nearly \$29.6 million to about 1,538 women and community projects.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, AAUW invested over \$5.3 million to support 228 women scholars and community projects. These grants and fellowships are lifelines — especially for women of color and those in STEM fields who continue to face systemic barriers. To include national AAUW in your personal end-of-year giving, go to www.aauw.org and click on "Donate." Your financial support is an investment in the empowerment of women and girls!



Honoring Robin & Richard Hanks

From the *Crab Cracker Magazine*

One of our cherished members, Robin Hanks, and her husband, Richard, were recently honored by the Camano Schoolhouse Foundation for their dedication to preserve the history of Camano Island since 2016 through volunteering on boards and committees, outreach through talks and presentations on historic topics, creation of the Stanwood Area Veterans Memorial, writing articles, creating graphic arts display, writing and laying out books about early Camano Island history and providing leadership in the creation of the Camano Schoolhouse Foundation Archive.



Congratulations Robin and Richard for recognition of your hard work.

Tech Trek 2026 Director

Mary Chesney

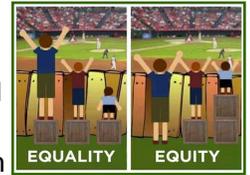
Christmas came early for camp. On Monday, November 24 all the Tech Trek coordinators were informed that there were several good applicants for camp director. The interviews will take place the first week of December; Krislyn Davis, the current and outgoing director, is confident one of them will be awarded the position. The note also advised Branches that the cost per camper was believed to not exceed \$1,700. The uncertainty is because creating a budget did not happen as early as it usually does due to the uncertainty.



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).



Major Depressive Disorder (clinical depression) is a common mental health condition experienced by about 15.5% of the adult US population. MDD is a serious mental illness that can be triggered by trauma (especially at an early age), genetics, life circumstances, brain changes (the frontal lobe is less active when a person is depressed), drug and alcohol misuse, and other medical conditions. A diagnosis includes experiencing at least five of the following symptoms for all or most of a day for at least 2 weeks: changes in sleep and/or appetite, lack of concentration and/or interest in activities, loss of energy, hopelessness or guilty thoughts, physical aches and pains, feeling slowed down or agitated, suicidal thoughts. Each person is unique and not everyone experiences the same combination of symptoms. There are effective treatments for MDD, including psychotherapy, medications, brain stimulation therapies, peer support, and complementary therapies like exercise. Working with a mental health professional on a personalized treatment plan is important. Many people with depression can and do get better.

<https://www.nami.org/about-mental-illness/mental-health-conditions/depression/>

https://www.nami.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NAMI_MajorDepressiveDisorder_2025.pdf

Upcoming Opportunities:

Dec 1st Rosa Parks Day

Dec 2nd SCGive <https://www.scgive.org/>

Dec 3rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Dec 10th Human Rights Day

Dec 21st National Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Projected Program Schedule for 2025-2026



January 15	Deb Narcisso presents "AURA" <i>SCAF Building</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 - Advocacy Day, January 26

Joanne Drewsen

AAUW of Washington is leading up to Advocacy Day on Monday, January 26. If you follow this link, you can see what Advocacy Day (formerly Lobby Day) was like last year.

[Lobby Day 2025 | Search Results | AAUW of Washington State](#)

This year there is no fee for Advocacy Day.

At this point, the State Public Policy Team is looking at bills that are "leftover" from last session and new bills that may be introduced and how they match AAUW - Washington's Public Policy Priorities for 2025-2027. Those Public Policy Priorities are attached here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11GADNHC-xMyGqSmJOkwpJXmH8eXBTyiE/view>

The next step is vetting each bill to see which of hundreds of bills will be AAUW-Washington's priorities during Advocacy Day. The Vetting Form is attached here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KaibWxPrivGAQyrHHWcE-7tlmsmrQuVY/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=107464559352999388558&rtpof=true&sd=true

If others in our branch are interested in being involved in vetting and choosing bills as well as advocating for them, please let me know.



Meet Our Member

Cathy Massimino

My sister and I grew up in Newark, New Jersey attending the Newark public school system through 6th grade. The school system was overcrowded so classes were conducted in trailers located in what was considered a rough neighborhood. For example, my sixth-grade teacher was knifed by one of the students in front of the whole class. As a result, my parents placed me in Catholic School for grades 7 and 8.

I attended a Vocational High School due mainly to economics. I was able to join in several extracurricular activities and took college preparatory classes during the summers. My senior year in addition to additional college preparatory classes at night, I enrolled in a work study program for an insurance company. During the middle of my senior year, we moved to the Jersey Coast, and I commuted to high school by train. I graduated at the top of my class and received a full four-year scholarship from General Motors Corporation to attend New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). At this time, my classes had only 1 or 2 women in attendance. While attending NJIT I was in the Honor Society (Chi Epsilon) and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

I worked for over 25 years as an Engineer and Project Manager with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) facilitating the construction and operation of facilities for safe storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste (i.e., chemical weapons, nuclear wastes, PCBs, etc.) and the clean-up of sites contaminated from the management of these wastes. I worked in US EPA's Region 2 Manhattan Office 1979-1984 as an Environmental Engineer. My husband and I moved to the Seattle area in 1984 where I worked at the US EPA Region 10 Seattle Office between 1984-2005-as Senior RCRA/Superfund Technical Specialist-GS-14.

My work included writing hazardous waste regulations, permits for hazardous waste management facilities, providing training to public sector, state, university and foreign government in management of hazardous waste (including radioactive and chemical weapons). Also, I provided technical support for enforcement actions, worked on the National Hazardous Waste Combustion Program and the National Chemical Demilitarization Program. During my tenure I received numerous Medals for Commendable service. I also received commendations from the U.S. Department of Justice, Seattle Federal Executive Board, and State Offices.

Through the years my husband and I have travelled extensively via cruises and visited Hawaii, Italy, Spain, England, France and Caribbean. I enjoy smooth Jazz, Folk, Opera and Rock & Roll music. Interests include gardening, jigsaw puzzles, caring for cats and dogs, reading books, visiting museums, etc. We built our home and moved to Camano Island in 2004. I retired in 2005 and have been active in volunteering. I was Treasurer of CASA, the Camano Animal Shelter Association for 17 years, also serving as Merchandise Chair. Volunteered for Sound Water Stewards (previously referred to as Beach Watchers) starting in 2006 as a beach captain (Cavalero Beach) and continue through today as the data entry person for Camano Island Intertidal monitoring data.

I joined AAUW because I believe in the organization's mission of achieving gender equity and economic security for women.



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 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?"

Monday February 2, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Judy Trammell

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

"Esme is born into a world of words. Motherless and irrepressibly curious, she spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, an Oxford garden shed in which her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Young Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard. One day a slip of paper containing the word *bondmaid* flutters beneath the table. She rescues the slip and, learning that the word means "slave girl," begins to collect other words that have been discarded or neglected by the dictionary men. As she grows up, Esme realizes that words and meanings relating to women's and common folks' experiences often go unrecorded. And so she begins in earnest to search out words for her own dictionary: the *Dictionary of Lost Words*. The *Dictionary of Lost Words* is a delightful, lyrical, and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the power of language to shape the world. ."

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.

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.



Purses with Purpose April 25, 2026—Rounding the Corner!

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 November 19 is 192 which includes 20 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 Orvieto, 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.

We have silent auction set up team leaders for Friday, April 24. Cheryl Gruger and Bev Maxwell have stepped up to lead this valuable endeavor and will need help on that Friday.

Still needed is a Volunteer Coordinator to organize the student and adult volunteers. These positions can be teams—whatever it takes to get the job done. We have members working on signing up the students but need a coordinator for the photo release forms.

Martha Huyler is a major part of the Business Sponsorships Team but she needs help. In 2024 this team raised about \$5000 so it's extremely valuable effort we don't want to miss out. There are businesses and non-profits willing to donate cash to our scholarship cause....we just need to ask them. 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

Silent Auction Set Up: Cheryl Gruger, Bev Maxwell

Fulfillment/Bagging Team: Jill Johnstone, Linda Lynn

Catering Coordinator and Centerpieces: Linda Demetre

Luncheon Table Set Up: Gay Campbell

Wine and Champagne: Helen Smith

Raffles: Lynda Buehring

Grants: Carolyn Spector

Open 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!

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

General Meeting Minutes - November 13, 2025

Program: Linda Demetre gave a historical presentation about Camano Island native, Pearl Wanamaker. Meeting was held at the SCAF building.

President's Report – President Lael Williams opened the meeting at 1:41. She shared an invitation from one of our scholarship recipients, Samantha Fozard. Samantha recently completed her art degree and is having a gallery show of her art December 1-7 at Western Washington University. Our members are invited. Samantha is hosting a reception on December 2, 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 300 of the Fairhaven College Building for which members are invited.

AAUW member, Robin Hanks and her husband, Dr. Richard Hanks were recently honored for their dedication to preserve the history of Camano Island by The Camano Schoolhouse Foundation.

Secretary's Report – A motion was made by Nancy Russell and seconded by Jackie De Fazio to approve the minutes from the October general meeting as written in the newsletter. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Nancy Russell shared the balances of our three accounts as of October 31, 2025. Scholarship Account: \$1849.33, Operating Account: \$3,893.07, Scholarship Money Market: \$35,180.14. At present, our Operating Account reflects a deficit balance if income and expenses come in as budgeted. We have added an Operating Account Campaign of \$1,000 to help us meet expenses. Suggestions for raising funds included organizing fundraisers, raising membership fees, accepting personal donations, and holding raffles. Mary Pilkington said that if AAUW is selected to participate in the "Round-Up" program with local businesses it will help bring in money to support our operating expenses, too. Our branch will pay \$150 for a one year non-profit SCAF membership that will include 40 hours of meeting room use.

Programs- Mary Pilkington announced that we will meet for our Christmas lunch at Il Granaio restaurant in Mt. Vernon at noon on December 11th. Checks (\$36) for the lunch need to be turned in by November 20 to Nancy Russell. Our January meeting program will include a short presentation about the Stanwood/Camano School District by Superintendent Ryan Ovenell.

Memberships -Joyce Leak reminded everyone to be in contact with their buddy and remind each other of AAUW upcoming meetings and events. If you don't know or don't have a buddy, she said to let her know and she will get you together with someone.

AAUW Funds – Jackie De Fazio reported that they are focusing on higher education funds for donations.

Communications - Georgi Proulx reported that the newsletter now features our motto in its header. Georgi recently emailed everybody information from Helion and from Seattle Branch's Immigration Program. She also sent everyone the new Branch Handbook.

Stanwood/Camano Give is on December 2nd. Our AAUW project goal is to raise \$4,000 for 2 camperships for Tech Trek. Donate at www.scgive.org. To view more about the program visit www.scgive.org. Flyers list how to join our Facebook page and the matching prizes available during the event.

DEIA - The group agreed that the "Land Acknowledgement" statement will be read exclusively during public meetings.

Public Policy – Our State Public Policy team is building up to Advocacy Day on January 26th. By mid-December, we will have a better idea of what bills we are focusing on and can advocate for on Advocacy Day.

Sandra Distelhoff, the State Public Policy Director, said that we could still partner with one of our State Legislators if there were a particular bill our branch would like them to sponsor, and she is willing to help.

Any members that are interested in being more involved leading up to Advocacy, please let Joanne Drewsen know as soon as possible. She still needs to learn more about how the Zoom meetings are set up, etc. so she can give better details leading up to Advocacy Day.

In addition, AAUW is partnering with the League of Women Voters, and it sounds like our branch is interested. The AAUW website provides access to "It's My Vote," which offers additional information on this topic. Additional training sessions are planned for 2026, following the November 2025 session. Anne Milton asked if there will be a \$10 charge to be on the Zoom call as there was for last year. Joanne didn't know and needed to find out more.

Purses with Purpose – Georgi Proulx shared that the purse processing committee will meet on Wednesday, November 19th.

Scholarships – Lael Williams announced that three scholarships, each worth \$7,000, will be advertised starting in February 2026.

(continued on page 9)

General Meeting Minutes - November 13, 2025 (continued from page 8)

Tech Trek- Georgi Proulx shared that Tech Trek is looking for a new director. Applications are due November 22nd. If a new director is not found, Tech Trek may not take place next year.

New Business – Yonah Ben Levy shared about the “Festive Fine Crafts and Art Sale” on November 28-30. Check the Crab Cracker for information about the artists and locations.

Book Club – Book Club will meet at Mary Pilkington’s home to discuss the book, The Searcher, on Dec. 1st at 2:00.

Java Break – Members are invited to meet for coffee and conversation at the Cookie Mill on Wednesday, 10 a.m. November 19th.

Movie Group -Georgi Proulx shared that there are two movies coming out that may be of interest to us. Join her Tuesday, November 18 for the Nuremberg 12 noon showing. Future possibilities are *The Christmas Ring* and *The Devil Wears Prada 2*. She will let us know possible dates and times.

President Lael Williams thanked those members who brought food for the food bank. She adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Walden

Secretary



Riddles for Your Holiday

- A. What is Santa’s favorite type of music?
- B. What is a kid who does not believe in Santa?
- C. Why isn’t Santa on social media?

Wishing you a wonderful holiday....

A. Wrap
B. A rebel without a Claus
C. He’s already following everyone.