



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

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

May 2026

Founded April 16, 1936 - Celebrating 90 years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

May 7th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

May Board Meeting
SCAF Building

May 14th

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

EVENING General Meeting
High School STEM Scholar
Recognition

Introduction of Tech Trek 2026
United Methodist Church

May 20th

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

Day Tripper Outing to Seattle
Waterfront

Instead of Java Break in May,
join us on this fabulous outing
to Seattle



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President's Message

Lael Williams

As we celebrate our successful PWP fundraiser this weekend, we look forward to the culmination of our efforts in our community to inspire and honor our local middle and high school girls.

Our May 14 meeting provides the opportunity to meet our High School STEM Scholars and Tech Trek campers for 2026. Many times these girls return to us as scholarship applicants. Save June 28 for our Scholarship Tea where we meet and celebrate our Scholarship winners for 2026. Be sure to read the anniversary article (pages 6-7) to learn how our branch has actively been involved in philanthropy for education.

Voting in our national organization's AAUW Election 2026 is important to maintain a solid organization. In the days around April 13, you should have received an email from vote@simplyvoting.com with your voting link and log in credentials. The election ends May 12,2026 to approve the nominated board members.

If you have any questions or need the link again please access the assistance by using:

<https://act.aauw.org/MemberVote2026> and connect@aauw.org

Let's finish this year off with a bang by participating in our May and June events and look forward to the celebration of our 90th anniversary in 2026-2027.

May 14: High School STEM Scholars

Linda Demetre, Lael Williams

The High School STEM Scholar Recognition is a yearly tradition to honor those high school juniors nominated by their STEM teachers for special attention of their excellence. Added to this tradition a few years ago is the introduction of the Tech Trek campers that will attend the camp in the summer. You'll not want to miss this special evening reflecting the mission and hard work of our branch.



A special speaker is invited to inspire the girls and their families to great things and new ideas. This year we welcome Jennifer Snow-Boscolo, a global business leader with more than 20 years of experience turning big ideas into real-world results. She works at Terex Corporation's Genie Division in a career that has taken her across North America, Europe, and Asia, giving her a broad view of how engineering and business solve problems around the world.

Please join us on Thursday, May 14, at the Stanwood United Methodist Church (27128 102nd Dr NW, Stanwood, just west of the Floyd Norgaard building and the food bank). Social Half Hour begins at 6:30 p.m. We ask members to arrive early to greet the students and families. After the program, we will hold our General Meeting.

If you can bring sweet or savory snacks, please email Anne Milton. Since we invite the families of our scholars and campers, we always have a large crowd.

Future Events

June 4th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

June Board Meeting

SCAF Building

June 16th

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member

June 28th

Sunday

1:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting and

Scholarship Tea

Camano City Schoolhouse



What's going on at AAUW-WA?

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/activities-information/calendar/>

Visit our branch website:

www.aauwsc.org

Public Policy

AAUW Washington to keep up with happenings in the current legislative session and to learn about areas for action.

<https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/actions-we-take/>

National AAUW Take Action

<https://www.aauw.org/act/>

Membership Corner: Day Trippers

Lynda Buehring, Joyce Leak, Linda Lynn

Day Trippers Light Rail Adventure: Seattle Waterfront Outing

On May 20, our Day Trippers group will embark on an exciting journey to the Seattle Waterfront, combining public transit learning with leisure and good company. This outing promises both educational and enjoyable experiences for all participants.

Travel Itinerary

Terry's Corner Park N Ride Carpools will leave Camano Island at 8:30 a.m. Please contact Lynda Buehring if you can be a driver. If you live in Stanwood, we will meet you at the Stanwood II Park N Ride on Marine View Dr. at 8:45 a.m. All attendees will need to RSVP to Lynda Buehring no later than May 13 via email or text.

The day will begin at Stanwood Park N Ride, where participants will take Community Transit Bus 905 at 9:22 a.m. to the Lynnwood Transit Station. From there, the group will transfer to the light rail ride into Seattle, and disembark at the station closest to the Seattle Waterfront Park.

Activities and Lunch

Upon arrival, there will be time for leisure shopping at the Waterfront. Afterwards, everyone will enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant. Participants will return home later in the afternoon.

Fees and Further Details

The Community Transit bus fare is \$1.00, and light rail fares are typically \$3.00 each way. Please stay tuned for additional details regarding this fun and educational outing in Seattle.



Public Policy Update!

Joanne Drewsen

As you all know our State of Washington legislative session is over, but there is always more to learn. Take time to continue to contact your elected officials about issues and pending legislation that you care about- School Board, City, County, State, and National.

Just a reminder that AAUW is non-partisan and focuses on the following issues:

Pay Equity

Equal Rights Amendment

Title IX, Women's Health and

School Board Advocacy

If you go to the AAUW State website and go to Public Policy, there is always the 2-minute Activist, plus the AAUW Action Network. <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/>

Once you are in the AAUW Action Network, there is much to discover:

- You can learn about your elected officials
- Record any relationships that you have with them
- Log interactions

All this can happen on an on-going basis throughout the year.

Our elections locally, state-wide, and nationally in 2026 will be very important so keep informed!



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

Kathy Cunningham

Historian

Helen Smith

Diversity

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Sunshine

Anne Milton

Newsletter Team

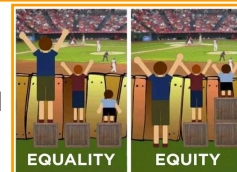
Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

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



Schizophrenia impacts a person's ability to think clearly, make decisions, manage emotions, and relate to others. It is a complex and long-term medical illness that often occurs in late teens to early twenties in men and late twenties to early thirties for women. Early symptoms include change of friends, drop in grades, sleep problems, irritability, isolating oneself, withdrawing from others, unusual thoughts and suspicions, and family history of psychosis. Positive symptoms add experiences that are usually absent (hallucinations and delusions). Negative symptoms stop or reduce feelings, emotions, and behaviors that are usually present (emotionally flat or speaking in a dull, disconnected way). Cognitive issues/disorganized thinking impact thought processes and memory (struggling to remember, organize thoughts, complete tasks). Diagnosis is challenging. Treatment integrates psychotherapy, medication, psychosocial support and physical health management. Collaboration among all providers, the person and their family is key to recovery.

<https://www.nami.org/types-of-conditions/schizophrenia/?tab=abouttab-0>

Upcoming Opportunities:

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

May 5th Cinco de Mayo

May 5th 11:00AM Sno-Isle Online Nepantla! Exploring Chicano Art

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/v2/events/697a397e834cbb3dea29e216>

May 19th Malcolm X Day

May 22nd Harvey Milk Day

May 31st, 2:00PM Sno-Isle Online

[One Book, One Coast with George Takei https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/v2/events/69c588fff29b90618efc82c2](https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/v2/events/69c588fff29b90618efc82c2)

Tech Trek 2026

Mary Chesney



Make sure you attend the May 14 evening meeting at the Stanwood United Methodist Church. You will have the opportunity to meet the six girls who will be attending Tech Trek July 12-18 at Seattle Pacific University thanks to all your donations and hard work to make this happen.

Program Schedule for 2026



May 20	9:00 a.m.	Day Tripper Outing Seattle Waterfront
June 28	1:00 p.m.	Scholarship Tea/Annual Meeting Camano City Schoolhouse
August 13	4:00 p.m.	Annual Branch Picnic Camano Hills Pavilion

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



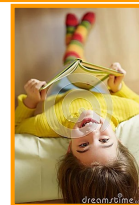
[www.facebook.com/
stanwoodcamanoaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw)



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 May 4, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Kathy Cunningham

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

"Lydia Quixano Perez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable. Even though she knows they'll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with four books he would like to buy-two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the jefe of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia's husband's tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same. Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride la bestia-trains that make their way north toward the United States, which is the only place Javier's reach doesn't extend. As they join the countless people trying to reach el norte, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?"

Monday June 1, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Georgi Proulx

The Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer

"Describes how a group of Timbuktu librarians enacted a daring plan to smuggle the city's great collection of rare Islamic manuscripts away from the threat of destruction at the hands of Al Qaeda militants to the safety of southern Mali."

Monday July 6, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Joyce Leak

Two Books:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

"An incomparable adventure story, it is a vignette of a turbulent, yet hopeful epoch in American history, defining the experience of a nation in voices often satirical, but always authentic."

James by Percival Everett

"A retelling of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view."

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.

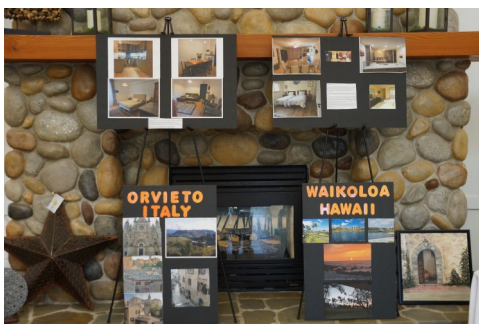
Contact the person who submitted the article you will read using the roster of current members to discover how to participate or ask questions about something that interests you.



Purses with Purpose April 25, 2026—Crossed the Finish Line!

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx; Photography: Martha Huyler, Laurie Barbosa

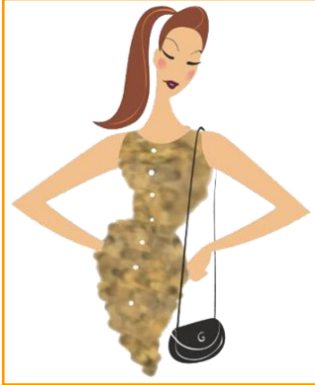
We are happy to report success in our 7th biennial Purses with Purpose thanks to the hard work and generosity of our members, families, and friends. Totals are preliminary, but the Fund A Scholar and the raffle matched or exceeded previous years. We will be presenting a final special edition of the newsletter sharing final data and more photos of the event in a couple weeks.



**Stanwood-Camano Branch Celebrates 90 Years
Branch Philanthropy Through the Years**
Martha Huyler



Since inception, our branch we have always been devoted to women’s education. Throughout the years provided scholarships for women. Currently in addition to college scholarships, we honor STEM high school girls and send junior high girls to Tech Trek camp. We also support National Funds programs. Throughout the years, dedicated women have worked together to fundraise for these programs. (See page 7 for our Philanthropic Leadership.)



Fundraisers – Starting in 1983 the branch held annual Art Shows to fund these initiatives. The branch sponsored over 28 Art Shows through the years. These juried art shows were held in the fall at various venues (Sons of Norway, Stillaguamish Grange, Stanwood Fair Grounds and Floyd Norgaard Center) and were often multi-day events starting with a Patron’s Party and were the social event of the community. These auctions were the major fundraiser activity until there were so many art shows in the area that our profits declined.

The first Purses with Purpose benefit luncheon and live/silent auction (PWP) was held in September 2013 at the Floyd Nygaard. The next three biennial PWP’s were held at the Camano Center in the fall. After Covid, the PWP’s moved to the spring. They continue to be the prime source of income to fund our scholarships, etc.

AAUW Funds – Since the branch inception we have been contributing to AAUW Funds. AAUW’s founding marked one of the first organized efforts to advance opportunities for women to pursue higher education and careers and to seek equal treatment with men. A part of those efforts was launching one of the most enduring fellowship programs for women in the world in 1888. That program continues today under the auspices of AAUW Funds. Each month the newsletter features information about AAUW Funds and how they are used.



Scholarships – Throughout the branch history there has always been a focus on college scholarships. What makes our scholarships unique is that the recipients must have completed at least 2 years of study at an accredited college or are pursuing a Master’s Degree and are a current resident of the area or a graduate of an area high school. Running Start students qualifying as a junior in the following September are eligible. Some of the requirements have changed but completion of 2 years of college-level study remains.



STEM High School Girls – Each May girls completing their junior year and excelling in four STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields at local high schools are nominated by their teachers and receive acknowledgement to add to their scholastic resume at our STEM Scholars Recognition held at our general meeting in May. Our branch has been honoring these girls since 2006.

Tech Trek – AAUW started Tech Trek, the one-week summer camp, in 1998, and the Stanwood-Camano Branch participated in Tech Trek starting in the summer of 2014. This popular event has been well received and is also funded via our participation in Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation (SCAF)’s Giving Tuesday event after Thanksgiving.

Continued on page 7.

Branch Philanthropy Leaderships

<i>Year</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Scholarship</i>
2007-08	Art Show 26th	October 19-21, 2007	Teresa Garrison		Leslie Link
2008-09	Art Show 27th	October 17-19, 2008	Kathy Cunningham	Nancy Roberts	Betty McCadden
2009-10	Art Show 28th	October 16-18, 2009	Kathy Cunningham	Georgi Proulx	
2010-11	Art Show 29th	October 15-17, 2010	Georgi Proulx		
2011-12	Art Show 30th	October 14-16, 2011	Kathy Cunningham	Nancy Roberts	
2012-13	PWP	September 21, 2013	Jo English	Bev Maxwell	Theresa Metzger
2013-14					
2014-15	PWP	October 3, 2015	Nancy Roberts	Norma Mouton	Norma Mouton
2015-16					
2016-17	PWP	October 7, 2017	Jackie DeFazio	Gay Campbell	Anne Milton
2017-18					
2018-19	PWP	October 5, 2019	Lynda Buehring	Norma Mouton	
2019-20					
2020-21	PWP	April 30, 2022	Jackie DeFazio	Gay Campbell	Marianne McGarry-Bloom
2021-22					
2022-23	PWP	April 27, 2024	Georgi Proulx		
2023-24					
2024-25	PWP	April 25, 2026	Georgi Proulx	Mary Raymond	
2025-26					

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tech Trek</i>	<i>STEM Scholars</i>	<i>AAUW Funds Coordinator</i>
2007-08	*	Helen Smith	Helen Smith
2008-09	*	Susan Blake	
2009-10	*	Bonnie Wagner	
2010-11	*	Alanna Stone	Jackie DeFazio
2011-12	*	Bev Maxwell Betty McCadden Barbara Carroll	
2012-13	*	Kay Sodt Helen Smith	
2013-14	Norma Mouton	Helen Smith Judy Trammell	
2014-15	Betty McCadden		
2015-16			
2016-17	Leslie Gitomer		
2017-18			
2018-19	Terry Benson	Leslie Moore	
2019-20	Judy Prince Mary Chesney		
2020-21	Mary Chesney	Lois Ruskell	
2021-22		Kathy Cunningham	
2022-23		Linda Demetre Lael Williams	
2023-24			
2024-25			
2025-26			

General Meeting Minutes - April 9, 2026

Program: We gathered at the SCAF meeting room for a Zoom presentation by Derek Sheffield, Washington Poet Laureate.

Call to Order: The meeting was opened by President Lael Williams at 2:08 p.m.

Minutes: The March 12, 2026 general meeting minutes, published in the April newsletter, were approved by majority vote. Cheryl Allen made the motion, which was seconded by Jackie DeFazio.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nancy Russell reported the year-to-date income from the Purses with Purpose Auction ticket sales so far at \$3,590.37. The balance of our three accounts as of March 31, 2026. Scholarship checking account is \$15,958.73, Scholarship Money Market holds \$36,919.23, and the Operating account stands at \$3,727.30.

VP Programs: Mary Raymond provided an update on upcoming program events. The High School STEM Scholars program will take place on May 14th at the Methodist Church, and the Scholarship Tea/Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 28th. Anne Milton asked for volunteers to provide treats for the STEM Recognition meeting.

Day Trippers: Lynda Buehring reminded us of the planned Light Rail trip to Waterfront Park on May 20 from 9-4. She circulated a sign-up sheet for this trip.

Candidates Forum: Kathy Cunningham has volunteered to be the chairperson of this event. She would like to schedule it for a date that is just prior to the date when the mail-in ballots are mailed out which tentatively would be on October 7th from 6-8 p.m. at the high school auditorium. Jackie Olson shared that she kept much of the information from the last Candidates Forum which she hopes will help the committee with their planning.

Public Policy: Joanne Drewsen reminded us to continue to contact our legislators about important issues all year long.

Purses with Purpose 2026: Georgi Proulx reported that 91 tickets to the auction have been sold so far. She pointed out that filling every seat requires selling a total of 144 tickets. On the Friday before the auction, members are asked to come to help with set-up. Times are staggered from 2:30-4:00. Help is also needed for cleaning up afterwards.

Tech Trek: Robin Hanks shared her experience working on the committee. She was quite impressed with the six students who were chosen.

Old/New Business: Georgi Proulx reported that she received an inquiry regarding members who might be interested in participating in the Stanwood Elementary STEM activity event on June 5 from 6-7:30. If anyone is interested, let Georgi know.

Java Break: The next Java Break will be held at the Cookie Mill on Tuesday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Georgi Proulx if you plan to come. It was decided that the May Java Break would be cancelled due to the scheduling conflict with the Seattle Trip.

Movie Group: Georgi Proulx will investigate going to see *The Devil Wears Prada 2* after it opens May 1.

Adjournment: President Lael Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Walden, Secretary



**Do you want to know
who you are? Don't
ask. Act! Action will
delineate and define
you.**

~Thomas Jefferson