



Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

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

October 2026

Founded April 16, 1936 ~ Celebrating 90 years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

October 1st

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

October Board Meeting

SCAF Building

October 7th

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Candidates & Issues Forum

Stanwood Middle School

October 8th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

Social Half Hour 12:30 p.m.

October General Meeting

Community Resource Center & Little Green House

SCAF Building

October 20th

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

JAVA BREAK

Cookie Mill

For Coffee and Conversation

Bring a Prospective Member



Little Green House

President's Message

Deb Narcisso

I would like to begin with a message of deep appreciation to our members who have organized the **2026 Candidates & Issues Forum on October 7 at the Stanwood Middle School at 6:30 p.m.** This will be your opportunity to meet and ask questions of the candidates for public offices that most directly impact your life as a citizen of Stanwood or Camano Island. Included are our **US Representatives in Washington, D.C. and Olympia as well our Island County Commissioner, Sheriff, Auditor, Assessor, County Clerk, State Justices, and PUD Commissioner.** It will be moderated by Dr. Kim Caldwell, Principal of Elger Bay Elementary School. We expect a large turnout and hope to see you there.

Stanwood and Camano Island have a rich tradition of nonprofits that serve our community in many important ways. These include food insecurity, homelessness, families in crisis and other community needs. Many of our members participate in these organizations. Stanwood/Camano AAUW is an important member of our community by supporting Tech Trek, high school scholars and college scholarships.

This year we will hear from these community service programs, learn about their missions, and share our local involvement with them. This month we will meet the staff of the **Community Resource Center and the Little Green House.** These organizations serve our community through **family and teen support and financial support for local families in need.** Join us on October 8 at 1 p.m. to meet these important members of our community.

The leadership of SC AAUW is always eager to listen to your ideas for the direction of our branch. Please join us in the many ways our SC AAUW serves our community. Also follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

October 8 Program: Community Resource Center and Little Green House

Lynda Buehring

Join us on Thursday, October 8, to learn about the Community Resource Center and the Little Green House, two non-profits in Stanwood.

The Community Resource Center (CRC) in Stanwood strives to build a healthier and stronger community through positive relationships, education, programs, and support services.

The Little Green House provides financial help for individuals and families in need of assistance to prevent discontinuation of necessary services, eviction, and other basic needs.

Randi Armstrong, Community Resource Center Engagement and Fundraising Coordinator, and Andrea Wyatt, Little Green House Director will share their mission and vision, give a brief history of these organizations, share about their programs and services, speak about the organization's future and ways the community can engage.

Randi Armstrong is new to the non-profit world. Randi began as a volunteer at the CRC and was thrilled at the opportunity to join the staff in 2024. She has 25+ years of experience leading volunteer teams for events. Randi has years of experience as a restaurant manager heading special events. Randi grew up on Camano Island and is a Stanwood High School graduate. Her family has been on Camano Island since 1969.

Andrea Wyatt has 18 years of experience working with highly impacted families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless as the Director of the Learning Assistance and Title I Federal Program, which oversees McKinney-Vento and Foster Care at Lakewood School District and Marysville School District. She has worked with other non-profits, including the CRC from 2006-2009, as a Youth Programs Coordinator, Camp Fire USA as a Communications Specialist, and Cocoon House as the Director of Fundraising and Development. As a longtime community member, Andrea was excited to come back to the Community Resource Center to open and operate the Little Green House Resource Hub.

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Future Events

November 5th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

November Board Meeting

SCAF Building

November 12th

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

12:30 p.m. Social Half Hour

November General Meeting

SCAF Programs & Community Opportunities

Superintendent Dr. Ryan Ovenell, SCSD

SCAF Building

November 18th

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/>



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/>

Candidates & Issues Forum - October 7

Deb Narcisso, Chair



The Candidates & Issues Forum is a long standing tradition of community outreach by our branch. Wednesday, October 7 is our next forum at Stanwood Middle School and will be moderated by Dr. Kim Caldwell, Principal of Elger Bay Elementary School. This event is co-sponsored with The Rotary Club of Stanwood-Camano Island.

Positive responses are being received from the candidates on the November 3 ballot including representatives on some of the issues. Included on the candidate roster are our US Representatives in Washington, D.C. and Olympia as well our Island County Commissioner, Sheriff, Auditor, Assessor, County Clerk, State Justices, and PUD Commissioner.

The committee has compiled prepared questions, and questions will also be accepted from the audience.

Watch for posters throughout Stanwood and Camano Island plus Facebook/Instagram posts. Please share, share, share to spread the word. We will also be asking for members to share the Facebook and Instagram posts every couple of days for additional visibility.

Public Policy Update!

Joanne Drewsen

The Candidates & Issues Forum on October 7 is such an important event to listen to candidates in person and think about how they are voting on issues that are important to AAUW members: Pay Equity, ERA, Title IX, Women's health, and School Board Advocacy. Listening to candidates gives you more in-depth information that helps you decide how to vote.

Our Washington State AAUW Public Policy website also provides information about how current candidates have voted previously on issues that AAUW supports. <https://aauw-wa.aauw.net/public-policy/>

As always, please let me know if you are interested in being more involved in Public Policy.



Tech Trek Campers' Gratitude

Laurette Simmons

Tech Trek demonstrates to its campers their individual potential in STEM and the positive personal impact of their participation. Below are some of the comments that our six 2026 Tech Trek girls sent directly to us.



- * *I am so very grateful for the opportunity you have given me. I have experienced so many new and great things, learned about the environment, our bodies, animals and so much more. I am so thankful for all you do and the fact that you believed in me.*
- * *My favorite part of tech trek was meeting new people and learning so many new things with them.*
- * *Thank you so much for granting me the opportunity to go for what was the best week of my life. I got to create a piece of wearable tech in my core class.*
- * *I loved coding and going on field trips.*
- * *My favorite thing was medical skills. In this class we learned about the basics of CPR, and practiced stitches on a practice kit.*
- * *I never imagined I would have this much fun. I have experienced so many new and great things. Thank you sooooo much!*

Your 2026-2027 Board

President

Deb Narcisso

President-Elect

(needs leadership)

VP of Finance

Nancy Russell

VP of Finance-Elect

Cathy Massimino

VP of Membership

(needs leadership)

Secretary

Karen Walden

VP of Program

Lynda Buehring

Public Policy

Joanne Drewsen

Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2028

(needs leadership)

High School STEM Scholars

Lael Williams, Carol Ellis

Scholarship Co-Chairs

Karen Rogers

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Tech Trek Chair

Laurette Simmons

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

Candidate & Issues Forum

Deb Narcisso

Historian

Helen Smith

DEIA

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Sunshine

Anne Milton

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

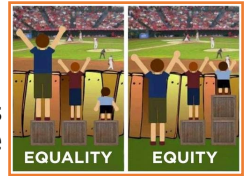


DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

School districts use a **504 Plan** for students with disabilities who do not require special education services. It outlines accommodations and modifications needed to ensure the student can access their learning environment and succeed academically. Students on a 504 plan usually learn next to their peers, rather than with individualized special education instruction.

<https://www.stanwood.wednet.edu/about/glossary-of-education-terms>



Upcoming Opportunities:

LGBTQ history month

Hate Crimes Awareness Month (SPLC)

Oct 3-Jan 10 MOMA la Conner

Voces de Triunfo: A Cultural Showcase of Triumph Teen Life Center

<https://www.monamuseum.org/outside-in-voces>

Oct 8 Latina Equal Pay Day

Oct 11 National Coming Out Day

Oct 12 Indigenous Peoples Day

Oct 14, 7:00 p.m., Lincoln Theatre

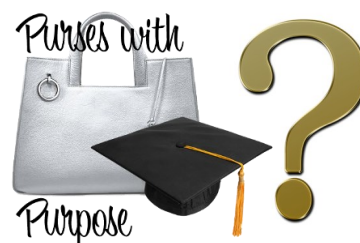
Community Dementia Awareness Event, Documentary Walk with Me

<https://lincolnthetre.org/film-walk-me-sadp>

Oct 26 Intersex Awareness Day

Oct 28 National Immigrants Day

Our Path to Scholarship Success



As we approach the new year, we look back with pleasure at the many ways we have supported the women and girls in our community. We celebrate success in our scholarship program, Tech Trek, and high school STEM scholar programs. However, we have come to the realization that we may need to find a new way to obtain funds for these initiatives and we need your help.

Upon evaluation of the success of this year's PWP 2026, we're finding that while the women in our community love to attend the fun event and donate the funds, they're coming to an end of wanting purses. We need a new plan and are looking for a committee to explore the fresh possibilities from developing a giving campaign to solicit funds to developing another fun event filled with prizes of great value, fabulous lunch, and the popular Fund A Scholar paddle raise.

It is important to start planning NOW we must start a plan in January for 2028 or late 2027. Please come to the Board and Leadership meeting on Thursday, October 1, 1 p.m. at SCAF to ask questions and share ideas. We need a committee...we're not asking for a chairman, just a committee...leadership will come later.

Contact Georgi Proulx with any questions.

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

Speak by Laurie Anderson and Shout, A Poetry Memoir by Laurie Anderson

"*Speak up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say.*" From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, an outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. As time passes, Melinda becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back—and refuses to be silent.

"Shout speaks truth to power in a loud, clear voice-- and once you hear it, it is impossible to ignore."

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

The Briar Club by Kate Quinn

"Washington, D.C., 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boarding house in the heart of the nation's capital, where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship. Grace's weekly attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all their lives, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears apart the house, the Briar Club women must decide once and for all: Who is the true enemy in their midst?"

Monday December 7, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Karen Rogers

Homecoming by Kate Morton

"Homecoming is a multi-generational mystery that alternates between 1959 and 2018, unraveling the long-unsolved Turner Tragedy in Australia. The novel opens on Christmas Eve, 1959, in the Adelaide Hills, where a local delivery man discovers the lifeless bodies of Isabel Turner and her children beside a creek on the grounds of a grand country house. The small town of Tambilla and the police quickly conclude that Isabel poisoned herself and her children, though no clear motive or evidence exists. Isabel's baby, Thea, is missing, leaving her fate a haunting mystery that remains unresolved for decades

Fast forward to 2018, Jess Turner, a journalist who has lived in London for ten years, returns to Australia after her grandmother, Nora, suffers a fall. While visiting Nora's house, Jess discovers a book titled *As If They Were Asleep*, written by Daniel Miller shortly after the 1959 tragedy. The book, written in a creative nonfiction style, explores the inner thoughts of Isabel and others involved, offering clues but no definitive answers

Driven by curiosity and her investigative instincts, Jess begins to uncover the truth behind the Turner Tragedy. Her journey reveals family secrets, complex relationships, and the manipulations of her grandmother Nora, who has long influenced the family narrative. Jess also confronts her strained relationship with her mother, Polly, and gradually comes to terms with the painful truths of her family's past." [Co-Pilot, Bing]

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



Celebrating Our 90th Year

Martha Huyler

The Stanwood-Camano AAUW branch celebrated 90 years in April 2026. In October 2011, in honor of the branch's 75th anniversary we highlighted a decade of history (1946-1955) compiled by Helen Smith. When reading about AAUW during this period, think about what life was like in the United States during this time.



1946-1956 Arlington Branch Information in 1949 revealed that nationally there was an emphasis on the arts. Branches held art displays, supported dramatic presentations. Money was raised by barn dances, ballroom dances, art bazaars, flower and antique shows, community sings, Christmas craft and rummage sales, theater and opera parties. Funds raised went to fellowships, record-lending libraries were established with public libraries, and contributions were made to nursery schools. It was estimated that one half million people attended these functions.

At the national convention in 1949, one headline speaker was Margaret Mead. Her topic was : —Radio: the Molder of Listeners.

Locally, in 1953, one of the programs at the branch was on the Interpretation of Exhibitions on Indians of the NW Coast which was at the Washington State Museum at the UW. Other programs included primitive and folk music. In 1954 the branch held its first art exhibit at the VFW Hall. It was the first exhibit from the Stillaguamish Valley pioneers and others who had added to the cultural background of the region. It covered the years from 1884-1954. Artists ranged from 8-70 years old. There were 200 visitors. The hall cost \$8 and miscellaneous items added another \$7 to the bill!

Other programs in the 1950's included ethnic music from China, India, Arabia, Africa, North and South American Indians, United Nations, consumer protection, travel to Alaska, and trends in religious thinking.



In November AAUW will celebrate 145 years of working to advance equity for women and girls by championing success in higher education. Founded in 1881 when advanced education for women was regarded as not only unnecessary but even dangerous for women's health, by 1888 the intrepid young women who had founded what was then called The Association of Collegiate Alumnae awarded its first graduate scholarship. Today AAUW is one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world.

This July AAUW announced its 2026-2027 class of fellowships and grants recipients, awarding a projected \$6.1 million to 259 outstanding women scholars, researchers, and community changemakers across the country and around the world. AAUW's fellowships and grants are designed to help counter longstanding inequities in education, research and professional advancement by supporting women at pivotal points in their academic and professional journeys. The 2026-2027 awardees include women pursuing advanced study, conducting groundbreaking research, and leading projects designed to improve lives and expand access to education.

- 61% of recipients are pursuing degrees or conducting research in STEM fields, where women remain underrepresented.
- Six community-based organizations received up to \$75K in funding to implement STEM programs that engage and inspire women and girls in grades K-12.

International Fellowship and International Project Grants recipients represent 22 countries around the world. At a time when changes to federal student aid policies and new borrowing limits may make graduate and professional education less accessible for many students, AAUW's fellowships and grants provide critical support for women pursuing advanced degrees, conducting research, and leading community-based initiatives.

By investing in both individual scholars and community-based organizations, AAUW is supporting women and girls at every stage of the educational pipeline — from early STEM engagement in grades K-12 to advanced study, research, scholarship, and professional leadership.

Stanwood-Camano AAUW is a proud contributor to AAUW Funds, the means by which we carry out our commitment to supporting women and girls at every stage of the educational pipeline — from early STEM engagement to advanced study, research, and scholarship.

Meet Our Member

Kerry Serl

Kerry is a fourth-generation Washingtonian. Her family moved to Washington in the 1890s. Her great-grandfather's contributions to Seattle — designing, building, and operating the Pike Place Market — led to her early interest in Washington State history and genealogy. She enjoys the genealogical treasure hunt through history, especially finding historical facts that flesh out these stories. Her historical writing includes an article on the 1926 Rose Bowl, which was the first time the University of Washington football team played Alabama. Her grandfather, along with his two brothers from Chehalis, played in that game for the Huskies.

Serl has not always researched history. After earning a bachelor's degree in Environmental Health at the University of Washington, she worked as an environmental toxicologist for a consulting firm and as an epidemiologist for the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

As a child she lived in Mt Vernon until age 14; her father still lives in Bow, WA on Samish Island, another island you can drive to. As an adult she lived in Woodinville and rural Napavine with her husband, John, and their son, Nathaniel, before recently moving to Camano Island. She is a past president of the Lewis County AAUW branch and now a dual member with Stanwood-Camano.

Kerry also enjoys reading, hiking, photography, bird watching, and travel. She recently returned from a trip to Amsterdam and France then off to Australia in October. Her grandfather was Australian and she'll be meeting second and third cousins, then the Everglades in January. "I've been to Nepal, Italy, Indonesia, and Malaysia."

What would surprise us about you: "After a concussion, I have a brain injury which has limited my abilities, affects every part of life and contributes to problems with writing and computer, groups of people, and loud noises which contribute to slurring and confusion."

Her reason for joining: "I like being around intelligent women and to make new friends."

Welcome, Kerry, to the branch.



Projected Programs for 2026-2027



October 8	Community Resource Center/Little Green House <i>SCAF Meeting Room</i>
November 12	SCAF Programs and Community Opportunities SCSD Superintendent Dr. Ryan Ovenell <i>SCAF Meeting Room</i>
December 10	Holiday Luncheon <i>Bourbon Creek Bar and Grill, Arlington</i>
January 14	Stanwood-Camano YMCA <i>SCAF Meeting Room</i>
February 11	Naomi Wark, Camano Author <i>SCAF Meeting Room</i>
March 11	Community Fundraising and Volunteerism <i>SCAF Meeting Room</i>
April 8	Stanwood Food Bank <i>SCAF Meeting Room</i>
May 13	High School STEM Scholar Recognition <i>Stanwood United Methodist Church</i>
June 27	Scholarship Tea <i>Camano City Schoolhouse</i>

General Meeting Minutes - September 10, 2026

Program: Tech Trek campers for 2026 present their experiences at camp. Meeting held at the SCAF meeting room. Tribal Land Acknowledgement was read by Deb Narcisso before the program began.

Call to Order: Deb Narcisso called meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Secretary: In Karen Walden's absence, Georgi Proulx presented June 28 annual meeting minutes for approval as printed in the September newsletter. Motion to approve made by Martha Huyler; seconded by Marianne McGarry-Bloom; motion approved.

VP Finance: In Nancy Russell's absence, Cathy Massimino reported the operating account current balance is \$4305.37. Scholarship balance is \$3901.76. Scholarship money market is \$64,125.45. \$21,000 scholarship amounts for 2026 have been paid. The monies collected for after-event purse sale is \$845 and the operating campaign has collected \$463.

VP Programs: Lynda Buehring shared that the program for the October 8 meeting at SCAF will be the Community Resource Center emphasis being on the Little Green House Project. The program for the November 12 meeting at SCAF will be sharing SCAF's mission and a short presentation by Superintendent Dr. Ryan Ovenell on the SCSD's Strategic Plan Refresh. December will be our holiday luncheon at an Arlington restaurant. Lynda also described the Day Tripper outing planned for the week of November 16-20 touring the Amazon plant and lunch at restaurant 1933 in Marysville. RSVPs for the Day Tripper are due November 1.

Candidates & Issues Forum: Deb Narcisso reported on the October 7 Candidates & Issues Forum at Stanwood Middle School. She distributed a copy of the event flyer and list of the RSVPs to date. Help will be needed to distribute flyers and setting up the event. The subject of security was brought up by Helen Smith who attended a Dave Larsen meeting in Burlington that was interrupted by political protestors. Consensus was that we contact the school and police department about this risk and the protocols recommended.

Fundraising: Georgi Proulx announced that a fundraising committee is needed by January to plan our next steps in raising scholarship funds for future scholarship funds. Do we proceed with PWP, a downsized version or something new?

Tech Trek: Laurette Simmons began a discussion about the feasibility of opening up the eligibility to other schools or the tribes for our Tech Trek program. If the number of students attending the camp increased, there might be a need for obtaining additional funds for Tech Trek. Consensus was to table this discussion to the October 1 board meeting inviting all interested members to attend this board meeting to hear their ideas and comments. Also discussed was the possibility of the Tech Trek committee members holding meetings for the nominated girls and their parents to help them fill out their application which seems to be a barrier in the selection process.

Interest Groups:

Book Group: Marianne McGarry-Bloom reported next book group is Monday, September 14, 2 p.m. Camano Hills Pavilion: House of Doors. Bring a treat to share.

Java Break: Georgi Proulx shared Java Break is Wednesday, September 16, Cookie Mill 10 a.m.

Movie Group: Georgi shared *Practical Magic 2* is pending; Fandangle canceled the Wednesday 9/16 1:30 pm time slot. She is working on a date/time for the week of September 21.

Day Trippers: Lynda Buehring announced the Amazon tour the week of November 16-20.

Adjourn: Deb Narcisso adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx for Karen Walden
Secretary



Don't tell me the sky's
the limit when there are
footprints on the moon.

— Paul Brandt