

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch

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

November 2026 *Founded April 16, 1936 ~ Celebrating 90 years* Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx

AAUW Stanwood-Camano (WA) Branch

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw

www.aauwsc.org

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
******

Java Break

Beginning November this gathering at the Cookie Mill needs a Coordinator. Contact Georgi Proulx for more information.



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President's Message

Deb Narcisso

October allowed our branch of AAUW to shine as we demonstrated our commitment to engage as a vital participant in our community.

On October 7 our branch in partnership with the Rotary Club hosted a highly successful **Candidate Forum**. Filling the venue, we heard from the full complement of national, state and local candidates running for public office in Camano, Stanwood and northern Snohomish County. The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. We deeply appreciate the enormous help from our members and fellow community organizations. See more on page six.

On October 8, **The Community Resource Center and The Little Green House** made a very compelling presentation about their role in serving our community in need. We learned about the extent of the services for the local homeless, displaced teenagers and families in distress. A spirted conversation with our members resulted in a very memorable gathering.

Continuing with our mission for community engagement, on November 12, we will have a short presentation on the new **Stanwood-Camano School District Strategic Plan**. Dr. Ryan Ovenell, Superintendent of the School District, will present and accept feedback. Also speaking is Natalie Hagglund, **SCAF** Executive Director, to explain the role that SCAF plays in our community. See more below.

Once again our branch received the **Five Star Award** from National AAUW recognizing our excellent work in Public Policy and Advocacy, Governance and Sustainability, Communications and External Relations, and Advancement. See page two for more.

As always, if you need assistance with transportation to the event, please get in touch with me directly.

And, please VOTE! It really is your superpower.

November12 Program: SC Area Foundation & Dr. Ryan Ovenell SC School District

Lynda Buehring

Dr. Ryan Ovenell and Natalie Hagglund will be the guest speakers at the November 12 our general meeting at the SCAF meeting room. Social Half Hour begins at 12:30 p.m., followed by the program at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Ryan Ovenell, superintendent of the Stanwood-Camano School District, was appointed in June 2025 after serving as interim superintendent. His priorities include student achievement, safe and inclusive schools, and preparing students for their chosen futures. Dr. Ovenell is discussing the Strategic Plan for the district. Other recent updates include an invitation to join the Health & Wellness Committee and School Board reports on Port Susan Middle School, district maintenance, and school counseling.

Natalie Hagglund is executive director of the Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation. She joined the foundation in 2017 and became executive director in 2023. Her background includes 10 years as a preschool teacher and eight years on the Stanwood-Camano School Board. Her work at the foundation supports local scholarships, educational grants, and community projects.

Founded in 1960, the Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation (SCAF) is a local nonprofit that connects community generosity with educational opportunities and community needs. It coordinates scholarships for graduating seniors and adult learners, provides Educational Enhancement Grants for the school district, and supports local nonprofits through grants, networking, training, and the SC Give community giving program. In 2026, its scholarship program awarded $376,850 to 154 graduating seniors and 17 adult recipients, helping local residents pursue further education and career training.

Future Events

December 3rd
Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
December Board Meeting
SCAF Building
******

December 10th
Thursday, 12:00 p.m.
Holiday Luncheon
Bourbon Creek Bar & Grill
20501 Olympic Pl NE, Ste 101
Arlington



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/

Operations Raffle—Health & Wellness Basket

Lynda Buehring



At our November Meeting we are holding an Operations Raffle to support our branch's operating fund that pays for running the organization so that we can focus our efforts supporting women and girls in our community.

We will be raffling a Health and Wellness Basket filled with items valued at $783. Featured is a Stanwood-Camano YMCA Family-3-Month Membership as well as a blood-pressure machine, EMSense-Healing-Foot-Massager and many other items. These fitness, relaxation, safety and everyday well-being items are possible holiday gives for your loved ones, friends or yourself. Cash or credit card. Be a winner while supporting our branch.

Celebrate the Season Together at the Holiday Luncheon

Lynda Buehring



Please join us at our traditional Holiday Luncheon on December 10 at noon, a cherished tradition where our members come together to celebrate the joy of the season, a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share good cheer, enjoy a delicious meal while joining in games and community giving.

This year we will be celebrating at the Bourbon Creek Bar & Grill, Arlington, where bold flavors and exceptional hospitality set the stage for an unforgettable dining experience.

Bourbon Creek Bar & Grill, 20501 Olympic Place NE, Suite 101, Arlington
Bourbon Creek – Bourbon Creek Bar & Grill

Cost is $45 and includes meal, gratuity, and tax. Beverages are ordered separately.

Bourbon Creek Bar & Grill is preparing a savory buffet with your choice of the following:

Pasta Primavera: Broccolini, asparagus, red onions, mushrooms, cherry tomatoes, zucchini, yellow squash, white wine garlic cream sauce, linguini.

Chicken Parmesan: Pan-friend crispy chicken breast, Gruyere-ricotta cheese mix, house-made marinara, linguini, fried basil.

Salmon Nicoise: Pan-fried king salmon, sweet mix lettuce, hard-boiled egg, kalamata olives, pickled red onion, fingerling potatoes, cherry tomatoes, asparagus, house-made lemon Dijon vinaigrette.

Dessert: A lovely lemon cake. Beverages available separately.

Carpools will be arranged from Terry's Corner, Camano, and Stanwood.

Please RSVP to Lynda Buehring and mail a check to AAUW-SC, PO Box 2652, Stanwood 98292 or bring your check at the November 12 meeting. Please invite guests.

AAUW's Five-Star Program for FY26

Tremayne A Parquet, Deputy Director of Advancement

Have you ever wondered what the 5 Star Award displayed in the branch newsletter meant? Below is the congratulatory email from National to Deb Narcisso for receiving the recognition once more.

Congratulations to you and your fellow leaders at the **Stanwood-Camano (WA) Branch** on your accomplishments through AAUW's Five-Star Program for FY26!

Based on your branch's FY26 Branch & Affiliate Annual Report, your branch earned recognition in the following Five-Star Program area(s):

Public Policy & Advocacy	Governance & Sustainability
Communications & External Relations	Advancement

Each star recognizes meaningful work in an area that contributes to a strong, engaged, and sustainable AAUW affiliate. We greatly appreciate the time, energy, and leadership that you and your fellow members invested throughout the year to make these accomplishments possible.

We also want to thank you for stepping up to lead your branch through the new Branch & Affiliate Annual Report process. This expanded reporting process asked more of our affiliate leaders, and your participation helped AAUW gain a stronger understanding of the work taking place across our branch network while supporting important organizational reporting needs.

We hope you will take a moment to celebrate this recognition and share it with your branch members. Thank you for your continued leadership and for all that you do to advance AAUW's mission in your community.

Congratulations again on a successful FY26. We look forward to seeing what your branch accomplishes in the year ahead!



Getting Back to Volunteer Tutoring

Georgi Proulx

Since 2008 our branch has a long history of tutoring in our schools. In fact, at one time the program included tutors who were not AAUW members and, as a result, the AAUW program had 16 regular volunteers providing tutoring to 128 third, fourth and fifth grade students at four of the five district elementary schools. The program ended by 2020 and was never resumed.

Now Principal, Staci Lauinger, of Stanwood Elementary wants to build their tutor volunteer program to help with the math and reading games she and Resource Teacher, Dagny Albano, are putting to action.

If you're interested please let Georgi Proulx know and she can provide the application and instructions for the background check which takes about two weeks. They hope to have the program running by December

When Stanwood Elementary School finds success, the tutoring program will spread to the other schools. We want our branch to be ready to meet this worthy challenge.

Stanwood Camano Give on Giving Tuesday —December 1

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Giving Tuesday is December 1 for our local Stanwood-Camano Give. Our AAUW project is to raise $4000 for "Science and Technology Camp for Girls", our AAUW Tech Trek program.

You have two opportunities to help: Follow our Facebook page at **www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw** for prize announcements and incentives throughout the day then share on your feed to spread the word around the country, even the world. Friends everywhere can donate online at **www.scgive.org** on December 1 beginning at midnight. You can find our project on Facebook at **@stanwoodcamanogivingtuesday.**

Plan your giving using the prize structure described below:

100th Donation of the Day! - The 100th donation of the day will win $500 for their organization.
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Early Bird Boost - 12 AM to 6:59 AM – 2 random donations, any amount, orgs get $250 each.
Morning Power Hour - 7 AM to 7:59 AM - $500 to org with most unique donors.
Snooze Button Blast – 8 AM to 8:59 AM – 1 random donation, any amount, org gets $500.
Break – 9 AM to 9:59 AM
Morning Golden Tickets - 10 AM to 10:59 AM – 4 random donations, any amount, orgs get $250
Morning Impact Accelerator - 11 AM to 11:59 AM — org with most money donated this hour gets $500.
Lunchtime Lift - 12 PM to 12:59 PM – First 5 donations of $100 from unique donors will be matched.
Afternoon Power Hour — 1 PM to 1:59 PM - $500 to org with most unique donors.
Break – 2 PM to 2:59 PM
Afternoon Impact Accelerator — 3 PM to 3:59 PM - Org with most money during this hour gets $500.
Afternoon Golden Tickets — 4 PM to 4:59 PM — 4 random donations, any amount, orgs get $250.
Break - 5 PM to 5:59 PM
Evening Power Hour—6 PM to 6:59 PM — $500 to org with most unique donors.
Evening Impact Accelerator—7 PM to 7:59 PM — org with most money donated this hour gets $500.
Break - 8 PM to 8:59 PM
Evening Golden Tickets - 9 PM to 9:59 PM – 4 random donations, any amount, orgs get $250.
Happy Homestretch - 10 PM to 11:59 PM — The first 10 $100 donations from unique donors will be matched.
Last But Not Least - org that receives the final donation on Giving Tuesday will win $500.

Any questions contact Mary Raymond or Georgi Proulx.

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

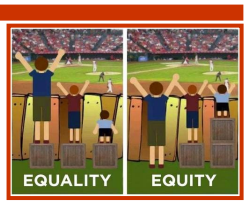
Sunshine
Anne Milton

Newsletter Team
Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility) Spotlight

Katie Farrey



MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) is the current term for the framework used by schools to identify and provide varying levels of academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support to students. It is evidence based and builds upon a public health approach focused on organizing the efforts of adults to maximize effectiveness. MTSS helps ensure each student receives equitable instruction, a nurturing environment and differentiation to meet their unique needs.

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

Upcoming Opportunities:

Native American Heritage Month

Nov 3, 11:00 A.M. Sno-Isle Online Reclaiming Your Inner Wisdom: Sacred Indigenous Teachings with Asha Frost - Online Author Talk

https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/v2/events/6a9b19e5d94765189bb99bae

Nov 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance

Nov 27, Native American Heritage Day

Our Path to Scholarship Success



It is important to start planning NOW for the future of our scholarship program. We must start a plan in January for 2028 or late 2027. Please come to the Board and Leadership meeting on Thursday, November 5, 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.

Public Policy Update!

Joanne Drewsen



Bravo to our Stanwood/Camano branch that put on the Candidate Forum this year at Stanwood Middle School! I was out of town but understand it was such a powerful way to learn more about how candidates view the issues that are important to you and AAUW.

This midterm election is such an important one in so many ways - Vote early and get your ballot directly to one of the ballot boxes near you. Our State AAUW website has so much valuable information to keep you informed and communicating with elected officials about AAUW issues that are important to you. Not just at election time but throughout the year as our state legislature begins its session in January 2027.

Toolkit for being involved in elections- **Election Resources – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881**

Civic-Engagement-Guide-2026-Voter-Issue-Guide.pdf

Don't forget the **Two Minute Activist** **AAUW Action Network – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881**

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

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 a monthly morning meet up at the Cookie Mill.*

If we want this gathering to continue beginning in November, it needs a coordinator. If you are interested about this position please contact Georgi Proulx.

This gathering is a special time with friends to share memories and thoughts we usually don't have time to share at general meetings. Share a mug and great conversation… we never know where it's going to take us...!

Book Group
Open to all members. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.

Katie Farrey
Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Find us on Facebook

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 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. 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." [Co-Pilot, Bing]

Monday January 4, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Martha Huyler

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

"Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet. So begins the story of this exquisite debut novel, about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee; their middle daughter, a girl who inherited her mother's bright blue eyes and her father's jet-black hair. Her parents are determined that Lydia will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue-in Marilyn's case that her daughter become a doctor rather than a homemaker, in James's case that Lydia be popular at school, a girl with a busy social life and the center of every party. When Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together tumbles into chaos, forcing them to confront the long-kept secrets that have been slowly pulling them apart. James, consumed by guilt, sets out on a reckless path that may destroy his marriage. Marilyn, devastated and vengeful, is determined to find a responsible party, no matter what the cost. Lydia's older brother, Nathan, is certain that the neighborhood bad boy Jack is somehow involved. But it's the youngest of the family-Hannah-who observes far more than anyone realizes and who may be the only one who knows the truth about what happened. A profoundly moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home, Everything I Never Told You is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, exploring the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family, and uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another"

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. During the year we are highlighting different facets of our branch through the years.

Our AAUW branch was formed in Arlington in 1936 by a group of 16 women. Their names* are included in several historical documents about our branch, which are maintained at the Washington State Archives in Bellingham. A series of articles profiling the women who started the branch were written by Carolyn Spector and included in the branch newsletters from January 2020 through October 2020. (These newsletters can be accessed via the branch website **Forms and Archives | American Association of University Women, Stanwood-Camano Branch**.)

From the articles we learn that the women ranged in age from the twenties to mid-thirties and were teachers in Arlington. Their majors varied from English, world history, home economics and commercial education. Four of the women were born in Montana and most attended WA colleges. Although many moved on from Arlington, we are grateful that they banded together and started our branch.



Estella Lucille Dyer



Loraine Anna Coy



Marjorie Duryee

The biographies include tidbits such as: **Loraine's** niece sent word that Loraine dedicated her life to many students to whom she taught English Literature in Arlington and Bellingham. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, one of 80 students at the U.W. to be so honored. Loraine travelled around the world and brought dolls from foreign countries. During the time **Estella** was a member of AAUW, a wide variety of speakers were invited, and paid, to speak to the members. **Marjorie**, a talented photographer travelled to Europe and during WW II she became editor of the Red Cross magazine, Boomerang. **Louise** was the Republican Representative 39th District in 1952 and **Georgia** was Treasurer of State AAUW in 1948.

*Marjorie Duryee, Estella Lucille Dyer, Margaret Lucille Dahl, Illene M. Snyder, Loraine Anna Coy, Louise Frederika Stilke Soper, Lena Harthill Ball, and Janice S. Wilmot.

Candidates & Issues Forum - October 7

Photos by Martha Huyler



Candidate Forum, co-sponsored by The Rotary Club of Camano Island, was an outstanding event. Held at Stanwood Middle School, twenty-three of the twenty-six candidates attended or were represented. Approximately one hundred community members attended. The cafeteria was packed.

Upon arrival the voters were greeted by AAUW members followed by a meet and greet by the candidates as they traversed the foyer viewing their promotion materials and asking questions.

The forum began promptly at 6:30 p.m. and was introduced by Dr. Kim Caldwell, principal of Elger Bay Elementary. Our president, Deb Narcisso, welcomed the guests, and one of our Tech Trek campers read the Land Acknowledgement. Anne Milton was introduced and began asking questions of the candidates after their 3 minute introduction. Reporter Josh Hernandez from GoSkagit was in attendance to record the happenings for the newspaper.



The question and answer period was well-organized, a couple of candidates were feisty, but the team kept it moving along ending about 9:00 p.m. The community pitched in to help put the chairs away. All in all a wonderful, informative community event.

Thank you to The Rotary Club of Stanwood-Camano Island, the Crab Cracker, and numerous community organizations on Facebook and Instagram that helped to get the word out generating such a fantastic evening. Thank you Evan Caldwell, Director of Communications, for assisting with the AV and microphones.

The entire forum team that prepped the event and carried us through the night did a fabulous job!

Meet Our Member

Jane Downey



"I grew up outside Portland, Oregon in an area kind of like Arlington - part suburb, part semi-rural and rural. We had horses and cows and I love animals. My dad and mom supported me in whatever I tried, and I tried so many things! Not kidding - when I was eight years old I would share with anyone that I wanted to be the first female President of the United States. Then I learned so much more about politics and decided to become a teacher instead."

Jane graduated from University of Washington - BA History; Western Washington University - MEd Secondary Education; Western Washington University - MEd Educational Administration and became a teacher in the Arlington School District, Mukilteo School District (25 years); Swim Facility Manager - King County Parks Dept (10 years).

Her hobbies are hiking/backpacking - "all over the western US; spending time with grandkids (2 little ones) and other family; currently learning/researching about female CIA agents during the Cold War; travel - Europe, Australia, US & Canada destinations, national parks."

What would surprise us about you?

I play piano and speak Portuguese (spent a study-abroad year in Brazil).

Reasons for joining AAUW

Tech Trek is the reason I joined AAUW. Jane is currently serving as the AAUW-WA Tech Trek Camp Director.

Projected Programs for 2026-2027



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

General Meeting Minutes - October 8, 2026

Program: Andrea Wyatt, Resource Director and Randi Armstrong, Resource Coordinator, spoke about the Community Resource Center and the Little Green House, two Stanwood nonprofits that provide people of our community with resources and financial assistance.

Call to Order: President Deb Narcisso called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. She shared that the Candidates Forum was a big success! She thanked members of the forum organizing committee for a job well done. There will be a debriefing meeting to document what worked, what did not, and lessons for future forums.

Secretary's Report – Karen Walden asked for approval of the minutes from the September general meeting as printed in the October newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Georgi Proulx and seconded by Joyce Leak. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Nancy Russell reported the financials for the month of September. The raffle tickets from the BBQ brought in $78 that went toward our Operating Campaign fund. There is now a total of $551 that has been added YTD toward our goal of $1000. The last of the purses were sold for $55 which was put into the Scholarship Fund. The Candidates Forum expenses to date are roughly $267. We have received donations of $220. The Rotary Club's donation of $250 is currently "in the mail". The Scholarship Account balance is $3,956.76. The Operating Account balance is $4,356.48. The Scholarship Money Market Account balance is $64,143.90.

VP Programs – Lynda Buehring reported on the upcoming programs and events. In November we will welcome representatives from the Stanwood Camano Area Foundation who will share information about their organization. Ryan Ovenell, superintendent of Stanwood Camano School District will provide a short over-view of the district's Strategic Plan for 2026-27. Our December Holiday Lunch will be at Bourbon Creek Bar and Grill in Arlington on December 10th. We will be able to choose from three entrees at a cost of $45/person. Lynda asked for people to sign up if they were interested in attending.

Communications – Georgi Proulx shared that she is in the process of changing her email. Her Facebook account will be changed over to an AAUW designated site and will be ready for Stanwood/Camano Give in November. Martha Huyler thanked the people who distributed the forum posters around Stanwood and Camano.

Tech Trek – Laurette Simmons shared that one of the Tech Trek girls read the "Land Acknowledgement" for the Candidates Forum. She did an excellent job! Laurette plans to begin the process of contacting teachers and counselors in preparation for Tech Trek camp 2027.

New Business -Cheryl Allen shared that her email was hacked and not to respond to the invitation expressed in the email hack. Cheryl reported that the "Days for Girls" organization is having an Open House at their facility on Sunday, Oct. 11th to celebrate the International Day of the Girl which is sponsored by the United Nations. "Days for Girls" celebrates 4 million recipients of their menstrual products given to girls from around the world. Menstrual Products kits are ready here and will soon be delivered to girls in the Stanwood/Camano Schools. There has been a positive reception in the classes.

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 at Anderson, Our Savior's Lutheran and Camano Island Lutheran Cemeteries in December. Flyers explaining the program and how to get involved were distributed.

Movie Group – Georgi Proulx is looking for good movie recommendations.

Book Group – Katie Farrey shared that book group will discuss the book, The Briar Club on Monday, Nov. 2nd at 2 p.m. at Mary Pilkington's house.

Katie Farrey encouraged everyone to read the ballot initiatives information carefully and to be sure to vote.

Java Break - Georgi Proulx told us that the next Java Break will be on Tuesday, October 20th at 10 a.m. at the Cookie Mill.

Day Trippers – Lynda Buehring reported that she was unable to get a private tour at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in November. She is working on trying to reserve some spots in other groups for us.

Fundraising in 2027-28 – Deb Narcisso reported that we need to be seriously thinking about our fundraising plans. She suggested forming an Ad Hoc committee that would meet to brainstorm and develop some ideas. She would like us to think about some ideas and about who we might ask that would be willing to help us.

Deb Narcisso adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Walden, Secretary



The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

~Sydney J Harris