

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County Branch

January 2024

## BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, January 4, 2024  
6:30 p.m.  
Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

### In Person

The Gathering Place  
(Community Room) at  
Stillwaters Estates

**Participants are encouraged to be vaccinated. Face masks are optional.** The gate to Stillwaters Estates from the Scammon Creek Road (near the Colonial Residence) is open until 7:00 p.m. Remember that the front gate on Cooks Hill Road still closes at 6:00 p.m. Here is the information for the intercom at the front gate kiosk: Gathering Place #005. To open gate from the Gathering Place: Dial 9

### Online

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 7003 3864  
Passcode: 515176

## BRANCH PROGRAM

January 4, 2024

### FROM CENTRALIA TO MALAWI

Speaker: Julie Nurse, Director Centralia College Library

Julie Nurse, one of our newest branch members, has been a librarian at Centralia College since 2013 and became director of the Kirk Library in 2016. Before moving to Washington State in 2000 she had earned her Master's in library science in 1997 from North Carolina Central University. Working in a variety of state and library positions eventually led her to the decision to focus on higher education and the community college system.

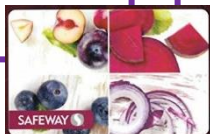


As library director at CC she became interested in the connection between the former CC President Hank Kirk and the university, UNLIA, that he helped found in Malawi. When Reverend Matiya and his wife visited from the Malawi University last spring, they invited Julie to come to UNLIA to work with the librarians there and teach information literacy to their students. In September, she and Lisa Spitzer, a CC math instructor, spent three weeks in Malawi, traveling, visiting schools and teaching. Julie brought back lots of stories and pictures from her travels and is eager to share them with us.

Please join us on January 4th for what promises to be a very interesting evening for all of us.

## HOPE ALLIANCE DONATIONS

Keep the giving holiday spirit going. The donation box for Hope Alliance will be available at the January meeting. Gift cards (preferably from Safeway) to be used for gas and other items, or cash, are a vital part of the work to support victims of domestic violence. Thank you for whatever you can contribute.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Evening with an Author

We are looking forward to our first Evening with an Author event, a moderated conversation with Olivia Hawker, author of *One for the Blackbird*, *One for the Crow*. While the event won't be held until Friday, September 6th, it is time to get things started. Marilyn Chintella and Jo Martens are co-chairing the event, but they need others who would like to help make this a successful evening. While we have lots of time to plan, publicity needs to begin soon, which requires designing flyers and a poster to help with that publicity. There will be lots of tasks that will need lots of helping hands. All proceeds will be donated to Hope Alliance. Please email or call either Marilyn or Jo to let them know how you can help.

**HOPE**  
ALLIANCE

*Life without violence.*

## CONDUCTOR NEEDED

Our branch of nearly 90 members, is composed of intelligent, independent women. Many have been members for years. Many are still learning about the organization and finding their place within it. Many have held various leadership positions in the past. Many have held supportive roles for various projects. Many are glad to help as they are directed. An orchestra is composed of people with various skills, but it must have a conductor to ensure everyone contributes at the correct time. Likewise, our branch must have leaders in order to ensure the branch to be truly effective. Leaders for our branch include not only the elected offices, but also those over our projects.

Currently, our branch is in need of someone to be in charge of EYH. As Simon Sinek said, "The role of a leader is not to come up with great ideas. The role of a leader is to create an environment in which great ideas can happen." The structure for EYH is in place thanks to the great work of past chairs. However, without someone to conduct the EYH orchestra, the result may not be satisfactory. If we believe in the importance of EYH, then we must be willing to contribute. Please consider your personal situation and whether you can either be the conductor or co-conductor for EYH for 2024. Never fear that the conductor will be alone in the performance as there are many musicians more than glad to play their parts and help. While EYH is ten months away, having someone in place is crucial now. If you can step up, please contact any of the officers.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Cameron Sheets  
2023-24 Sandy Godsey Memorial  
Scholarship Winner

- ✚ June 2023 Graduate from West High School
- ✚ Currently enrolled in Central Washington University
- ✚ Major: Kinesiology/exercise science

Cameron is enrolled in the Kinesiology program at Central Washington University. Her ultimate goal is to gain employment as a physical therapist. She became interested in this field while involved in high school sports. In high school she was involved in many extracurricular activities such as ASB, participation in interviewing for a new school principal, captain of the high soccer team, and many leadership roles. She prepared for college via participation in numerous STEM classes and she took high school Medical Terminology, Sports Medicine and Advanced Sports medicine courses. Let's give a great round of applause to Cameron and the hard work that she did in high school that led her to become a recipient of this scholarship. We have received word from her that she is doing well and received a 4.0 for the Fall quarter. Are any of us surprised?



## General Business Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, January 17 - 7:00 p.m.

As noted in the December newsletter, everyone is encouraged to attend the next business meeting. This meeting provides the opportunity for a complete discussion of agenda items. The monthly hybrid branch meeting can then focus on the designated program, and provide announcements, solicitations for help on projects, and final votes as required.

Please send any agenda items to Laura Hewett prior to Saturday, January 13, so the agenda can be distributed to members prior to the meeting.

## SHARING & CARING

We wish these ladies with January birthdays, both a happy birthday and a happy new year.

Laurel Smith 1/1  
Jo Martens 1/9  
Robin Warren 1/9  
Jeanne Nygard 1/11  
Judy Scheer 1/15  
Donna Loucks 1/19  
Cheryl Vance 1/21



For those who need our thoughts of support or for events we would like to make note of and celebrate, please contact Jo Martens.

## BOOK SALE

Now that we have a place to store and sort books until our Book Sale, feel free to tell your friends that you are ready to accept donations, and make it your New Year's resolution to clean off your own book shelves. We'll start advertising more widely in February. Someone will be at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2190 Jackson Highway, each Tuesday in January from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. If you can deliver books during that time, please let Renae Seegmiller know you will be coming. Once you are there, call or text Renae so she can let you in. If you have or know of books that need to be picked up, call Betty Garrett. If possible, try to screen what we accept to save our backs! We **DO NOT WANT**: Magazines, VHS videos, cassettes, encyclopedias, Readers Digest Condensed Books, romances, old textbooks, old hardback fiction. We do want: hardback and paperback fiction in good condition, non-fiction in all subject areas, children's and young adult books, DVDs, CDs and audio books.

Sorting will also begin in January on Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. There is room for more volunteers than there was at Jeanne's guest house last year, not to mention parking is great. If you are willing to sort books, just let Renae know that you will be coming and call or text her when you arrive. As more books come in, the times for sorting will increase. Besides sorting, there is a need for help moving books, often during these times. We are also looking for help from anyone, including family members who are able, to pick up books, and to haul unwanted books to either recycle or Goodwill, often at the end of each Tuesday shift. Let Renae know how you can help.

Mark your calendar for the book sale dates, March 21-23. March 17-20 we will be moving the books to the Moose Lodge, and arranging the books at the Lodge. Lots of helping hands will definitely be needed that week.



## MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

We are happy to welcome our newest member, Julie Nurse, Centralia College librarian. Please give her a call, send a note, and introduce yourself when you see her at a branch meeting.

Kathy and Cathy are planning a January social with new members. Watch the WAAG for details!

## MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Cathy Cavness, Kathy Halsan, Kathy Tennyson

Our wonderful Lewis County AAUW branch members continue to be active in support of our Timberland Regional Library system. Members are attending monthly zoom board meetings to maintain an awareness of attempts to rate books and other materials in our library system. Thank you to AAUW members for faithfully attending previous TRL board meetings. Upcoming meetings are being attended by Kathy Halsan in January, Peggy Hammer, February, Kathy Tennyson, March, Swede (Sonja) Svenson, April, and Jeanne Nygard, May. We need at least one AAUW member for June 26. Please email Cathy Cavness or Kathy Halsan to sign up soon!



*We're Stronger Together!*



Lobby Day 2024

Lobby Day 2024 is online on Monday, January 22. Registration is available on the AAUW-WA website, as well as in the January 2023 Evergreen Leader. Lobby Day topics will include Media Literacy, Voting, Girls at Risk, plus an extensive update from our AAUW-WA lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro. Nancy's update will include information about the Keep Our Care Act (women's health care). [Registration](#) is now open.

The next meeting of our local Movers and Shakers (public policy) interest group will be Monday, January 8, 2024, 6:30-7:30 PM, via Zoom. Watch the WAAG for the zoom link. Everyone is invited to attend! Our branch membership is nearly 90 members strong; we are MAKING A DIFFERENCE in our community!

## INTEREST GROUPS

### EARLY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

Norma Green

The EMD topic for Thurs., January 11, 2024, via Zoom we will learn about and discuss ***Pioneer Clothing and Fashion*** – bonnets, bloomers, dresses, men's and women's shoes/boots, cowboy boots and hats, Levis, western shirts and skirts, quilts, American Indians' and pioneers' animal skin garments, and any other item of clothing you think of that is related to the American West. For more information, contact group leader Norma Green.



### TRAVEL GROUP

Donna Loucks

No travel group in January.

### CINEMA CHICKS

Nancy Kruger



Cinema Chicks will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, January 8th, to review currently released films that we saw during the holiday season. We will gather at Laura Hewett's home at noon for a potluck lunch and discussion. Suggested films for viewing include *Napolean*, *Boys in the Boat*, *The Color Purple*, *Wonka* and *Ferrari*. If you have seen any of these or other current films that you would like to discuss, join us on the 8th at noon. Please bring a luncheon item to share and contact Laura if you plan to attend.





## MILES AND SMILES

Laura Hewett

Welcome to a new year for Miles & Smiles! We have scheduled some new destinations (and thank you to those of you who have made suggestions) and will continue to revisit some of our favorites from the past couple of years. We will start out on January 10th to walk the Willapa Trail beginning from the Adna trailhead. Our second January walk (on the 24th) will be a new destination for us: the Kalama Marina and River Walk which provides us the opportunity to have lunch afterwards at McMenamins. Be sure to check the previous Saturday's WAAG for the correct destination; these are sometimes changed.

If you are not on the email list for Miles and Smiles and would like to be, please contact Laura Hewett. Specific details for timing and directions are sent out in those emails. Since we often carpool, and to ensure we all meet at the correct location, please let Laura know if you are planning on attending.

We hope to see some new faces and of course, former faces (not old) on the trail.



## RAVENOUS READERS

Nancy Leventon

The Ravenous Readers will be meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at the home of Jeanne Nygard. The book for the evening will be *Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson. Jeanne will be leading the discussion. Come anytime after 6:30. Discussion will begin at 7 pm. Please let Jeanne know if you will be attending in person.

About the mystery novel: In the words of Ernest Cunningham, the narrator of the book: "Everyone in my family has killed someone. Some of us, the high achievers, have killed more than once. I'm not trying to be dramatic, but it is the truth. Some of us are good, others are bad, and some just unfortunate. I'm Ernest Cunningham. Call me Ern or Ernie. I wish I'd killed whoever decided our family reunion should be at a ski resort, but it's a little more complicated than that. Have I killed someone? Yes. I have. Who was it? Let's get started."

Looking ahead: Our February book will be *Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* by Margareta Magnusson.

## PAGES & BEANS

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet on Friday, January 19, 2024, at the Centralia Timberland Library meeting room, 110 South Silver. The book for discussion is **The Moment of Lift** by Melinda Gates. Kerry Serl will be the discussion leader. In this moving and compelling book, Melinda shares lessons she's learned from the inspiring people she's met during her work and travels around the world. As she writes in the introduction, "That is why I had to write this book--to share the stories of people who have given focus and urgency to my life. I want all of us to see ways we can lift women up where we live."

Planning ahead: Our February 16 book will be **Demon Copperfield** by Barbara Kingsolver, led by Laura Hewett.



## BITS N PIECES

- Centralia School District has another replacement levy on the ballot on February 13. Ballots go out on January 23, so turn-around time is very short. The levy committee is organized and meeting. If any members wish to doorbell or have a visible sign location in Centralia, please contact Jan Leth. The committee is running a very visible and "all out" campaign this time. The last levy narrowly went down by 100 votes. This is the **THIRD TRY** for CSD to run a M&O levy for the district. It is a "bare-bones" one, but needs to be done to pay the bills.
- Barbara Birney is seeking assistance with obtaining a caregiver VISA and employment for foreign worker coming from Africa. If you have knowledge of how to bring someone in to work in the US, please contact her.

## ART GROUP

Bonnie Blake

January Art Group to be determined. Watch for the Art Group email. If you are not on the list and want to be, please contact Bonnie Blake.

## LEWIS COUNTY AAUW HOLIDAY DINNER

December 7, 2023 - The Gathering Place

The Lewis County Branch of AAUW held its annual Holiday Dinner at The Gathering Place in Centralia. A crew of volunteers, headed up by Norma Green, put on a planned-potluck dinner for the members. Thirty members and spouses attended the event. There were no guests. There was one very new member, Julie Nurse.

After a dinner of soups, casseroles, rolls, desserts and beverages, the Centralia High School Jazz Choir headed by Director Lauri Johnson, performed a series of very fun spirited holiday songs. The program culminated with a sing-along of snippets of favorite Christmas songs. It was a very enjoyable event and appreciated by all.

Nancy Leventon, Secretary



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## BRANCH WEB PAGE and FACEBOOK

- ✚ Please check out our [BRANCH WEB page](#) for more information about our branch.
- ✚ The password for the [MEMBERS ONLY page](#) is in the directory. There you will be able to find past newsletters, videos of the Zoom programs, the handbook, recipes and other interesting resources. Consider bookmarking this page for quick access to branch information.
- ✚ Be sure to follow and share our [Facebook page](#) and our [Instagram page](#). Contact Peggy Hammer with information for social media postings.

# CALENDAR

Thursday, January 4 – 7:00 pm.....Branch Program  
 Wednesday, January 3 – 10:00 am .....Java Break  
 Monday, January 8 – 12:00 pm.....Cinema Chicks  
 Monday, January 8 – 3:00 pm .....Movers & Shakers  
 Wednesday, January 10 – 9:00 am .....Miles & Smiles  
 Thursday, January 11 – 8:30 am .....Early Morning Discussion  
 Monday, January 15 – 10:00 am.....Java Break  
 Tuesday, January 16 – 7:00 pm .....Ravenous Readers  
 Wednesday, January 17 – 7:00 pm .....General Business Meeting  
 Friday, January 19 – 2:00 pm .....Pages and Beans  
 Saturday, January 20.....Newsletter Deadline  
 Monday, January 22.....Lobby Day  
 March 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.....BOOK SALE

## OFFICERS 2023-2024

President	Laura Hewett
President Elect	Donna Loucks
Program Committee:	Kristi Nelson, Chair; Norma Green, Peggy Hammer, Corene Jones-Litteer, Jo Martens, Tami Nordin, Judy Scheer
Membership Vice-Presidents:	Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan
Secretary:	Nancy Leventon
Treasurer:	Donna Loucks
Historian:	Judy Scheer
Book Sale:	Betty Garrett, Donna Loucks, & Renae Seegmiller
Expanding Your Horizons:	Co-Chairs Needed
Scholarship Board of Directors:	Nancy Kruger, President Kathy Tennyson, Tami Nordin, Robin Warren, Carol Kostanich, Corene Jones-Litteer, Adele Woodward
Directory Editors:	Nancy Leventon & Jeanne Nygard
Communication Editors:	Renae Seegmiller & Laura Hewett
Hostess Coordinators:	Mary Dahlstrom
Sunshine Chair:	Jo Martens