

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County Branch

April 2024

BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, April 4 - 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

HOSTESSES

Nancy Leventon, Chair
Peggy Barth, Betty Garrett

Online

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 7003 3864
Passcode: 515176

BRANCH PROGRAM

April 4, 2024

THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM AT HALF A CENTURY



The speaker at the April 4th meeting is Mary Jo Christensen, Historian for Lewis County Master Gardeners. She grew up in Winlock and was a gardener long before becoming a Master Gardener, which she has been since 2002 after all her “children” had graduated from college. She has held every local office except secretary and has been recognized both county and statewide for her service in Master Gardeners. She currently is manager of the gardens the program maintains at the fairgrounds.

Judy Scheer attended a 50-year celebration spring of 2023 and was amazed at the information on programming shared by speakers, and felt this was information our group would be interested in whether or not we garden. We are truly fortunate to have Mary Jo willing to share with our group as almost one third of our group lists “gardening” as an interest.

General Business Zoom Meeting

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

All members are encouraged to attend The General Business Meeting where more lengthy discussion of branch activities occurs than at our branch program meetings. Any member who has a suggested agenda item should contact Laura Hewett prior to Saturday, April 13.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Daria Okul was the recipient of our Kerry Serl Tribute Scholarship for the 2023-24 academic year. During this past year, Daria has moved from Washington to Arizona and is attending Arizona State University where she is working on a degree in criminal justice. As a student at Toledo High School, Daria graduated as the salutatorian of her class. She also attended Centralia College as a Running Start student and received her AA degree at the same time as her high school diploma. Daria was born in Ukraine and came to the United States with her mother. The rest of her family continues to live in Ukraine, so her mother’s support means a lot to her. During her first semester at Arizona State, Daria struggled emotionally without her mother, or any other support network. In fact, being away from her mother has been harder on her than she anticipated, as she is Daria’s “greatest cheerleader and constant support.” Acclimating to Arizona’s climate has taken some time, but she really appreciates the dry, sunny days and warm temperatures. Daria is in her second semester of college and reports that “*motivation is a very important thing to have in life!*”

BOOK SALE REPORT

Our 2024 sale was a record-breaking one: in the quantity of books (about 16,000 and over 900 boxes), the number of volunteer hours required to organize it (about 550), and fortunately also in the income! We grossed about \$20,000. While we were left with more books this year than last year, we did sell 90% of what we moved to the Moose Lodge. Thanks to everyone who assisted in any way, but especially to the core group who returned day after day, week after week, to organize the books that flowed into St. John's Lutheran Church where we were collecting, sorting them, and moving those books of less quality to other locations. We incurred \$1000 in expenses for the church, the Moose and the Scouts, and \$175 in credit card fees, but nearly \$19,000 will carry us through the next year and possibly beyond.



SHARING & CARING

After several months of dedicated hard work on the book sale, Donna Loucks is heading to Hawaii with her husband Bryon for relaxing down time. Hopefully they will be blessed with typical Hawaii sunshine and warm breezes.



Our birthday for April are: Donna LaLond 4/21
Ann Tuning 4/25
Adele Woodward 4/25

We hope these ladies have a happy celebration this month.

For those who need our thoughts of support or for events we would like to make note of and celebrate, please contact Jo Martens (jj83martens@gmail.com)

MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

It's Time to Renew! Our membership drive begins NOW. At the April 4th meeting we will be ready to take your dues payment for the 2024-2025 AAUW membership year. For \$7.60 per month, we have a plethora of activities and projects worthy of our mission. AAUW has something for nearly everyone to enjoy. Write your check for \$92, or, bring your credit card, or cash, to the branch meeting in April. If you are unable to attend the meeting mail your funds to Lewis County AAUW, c/o Donna Loucks, PO Box 244, Chehalis, WA 98532. Make your check out to Lewis County AAUW. *We're making a difference in our community; we can't do it without YOU!*

During the month of March we are welcoming our newest member, April Collett. April joined just in time to help with the book sale, and has already attended Java Break! Please add her contact information into your directory.



ANOTHER NEW YEAR AROUND THE CORNER



Spring is a time of renewal. The officers of our branch are reviewing the year and making plans for the 2024-2025 year. This review and planning process requires input from each member. An email will be sent out in April containing a survey. This is what you can expect to be asked.

There will be a new format for the profiles in the directory. This will allow the directory editors to streamline the process. The survey will ask you to complete, even though we have it already, your contact information, preferred method of contact from other members, year joined, educational institutions & locations, profession, and interests.

They say it takes a village and that holds true for our Branch as well. While there are many members already involved, having more members will spread the weight and provide back-up for everyone. You will be asked if you are willing to be contacted to help in three areas. Administrative tasks (small tasks and projects that need to be done on a regular basis such as organizing historical documents, digital material, and supplies, producing printed materials, publicizing branch events, running hybrid meeting technology, and/or updating branch website), Committees and Special Programs (working with young women, on fundraisers, and/or serving on the scholarship committee), Special Roles within the Branch (serving as co-chair of a project, committee or interest group, as an officer for the branch, or be a "Buddy" to new members).

When you receive the email with the survey link included, please take the time to read, reflect, and respond. If you know you won't receive or be able to respond to the email, contact Jeanne Nygard or Renae Seegmiller to respond to the survey either by mail or by phone. Please consider how much enjoyment can be obtained by working with others as "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research."



MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Cathy Cavness, Kathy Halsan & Kathy Tennyson

Looking ahead, expect to receive information about education concerning the upcoming Washington State voter initiatives. AAUW-WA public policy is working to provide unbiased information about these initiatives which will appear on the ballot in November.

On March 12, eight Lewis County AAUW members met to provide information to Centralia College students and staff regarding Equal Pay Day. We decorated a booth, had a two-foot game spinner, complete with trivia questions about equal pay for women. Every participant won a candy bar and learned about the differences in pay between genders. A good time was had by all!



Our Movers and Shakers attended an Olympia AAUW branch meeting on March 19, at the Tumwater Timberland Regional Library. We listened to a presentation by a knowledgeable library director on the top of the right to information. Movers and Shakers are planning a joint event in June with the Olympia branch AAUW about censorship in our communities. Watch for more information in the near future.

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22. We are supporting Centralia College Earth Day event with a booth promoting AAUW membership and mission. Watch the WAAG for more information. We would love to have you join us April 22 at Centralia College.

INTEREST GROUPS

ART GROUP

Bonnie Blake

Art Group will meet Monday, April 29th, at 10 a.m. Location will be announced via the WAAG and email. Bring a potluck brunch item and your own project. Please join us if you sew, paint, knit, color, draw, etc. or just like good conversation! If you have questions or want to be on the email list, contact Bonnie Blake.



MILES AND SMILES

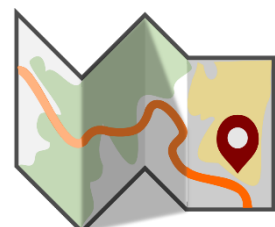
Laura Hewett

As April approaches, we are finishing up our March walks to Squaxin Park (formerly Priest Point Park) in Olympia. On April 10 we are traveling north to McLane Creek Nature Trail in Capitol State Forest. On April 24th we'll head down to Longview and one of our favorite springtime and fall walks--Lake Sacajawea. We expect to see flowers in bloom and trees budding out this time of year. We are excited to visit new trails in addition to some of our favorites from last year. All are welcome. If you want to be on the email list, contact Laura Hewett.

TRAVEL GROUP

Donna Loucks

Travel Group will meet Tuesday April 23 at the home of Jan Snider. It will be a hybrid meeting so people can also Zoom in to see Jan's photos of their trip from Paris to Normandy and back. Social 6:45, Program 7:00.



PAGES & BEANS

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet on Friday, April 19 at 2:00 PM, at the Centralia Timberland Library Meeting Room. Barbara Selis will lead the discussion of **The Year of Living Danishly** by Helen Russell. The author wanted to understand why the Danes are known for being so very happy. She and her family lived in Denmark for a year and with humor, relates how the Danes get it right, what they get wrong and how we might all live a little more Danishly ourselves. This is a hybrid meeting. Please let Renae know if you will be joining us via Zoom.

In May we will discuss *Go Back to Where You Came From* by Wajahat Ali. The author's parents immigrated from Pakistan 50 years ago. He tackles the dangers of Islamophobia, white supremacy, and chocolate hummus, peppering personal stories with astute insights into national security, immigration, and pop culture.



CINEMA CHICKS

Nancy Kruger

Cinema Chicks will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 1:00 at Laura Hewett's home. This is a change in location from what was previously announced. We will view two films followed by discussion led by Kathy Tennyson. *The Last Repair Shop* won the Academy Award this year for Best Documentary Short Film. It centers on the Los Angeles School System's program which since 1959 provides free musical instruments for its students. *Nyad*, our second film is a biographical sports drama film about Diane Nyad's multiple attempts in the early 2010s to swim from Cuba to Florida. Annette Bening stars as Nyad in the title role. Please let Laura know if you plan to attend. All are welcome. If you would like to be on the email list, please contact Nancy Kruger.

EARLY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

Norma Green

When the group meets on Thursday, April 11 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom, we will continue our discussion of ***Music, Dance, and Entertainment in the 1800s***. When time allowed, as the Pioneers journeyed West, they entertained themselves along the way. They also enjoyed entertainment created by other settlers and other cultures they met as they moved farther west, e.g., that of the American Indians, Spanish-Americans, Cowboys, and Gold Miners.

We'll also add to two of this year's Pioneer era topics. First: Western artist George Catlin who is noted for his portraits of Plains Indians, as well as his observations of their good teeth and health and their child care practices to suppress mouth breathing. Second: Heroes of the American West as described in a book by Martha Pappas.

EMD is open to all AAUW members, whether you want to present information or simply listen to and see presentations. For more information contact Norma Green.

RAVENOUS READERS

Nancy Leventon



The Ravenous Readers will be meeting on Tuesday, April 16, at the home of Jan Snider. This will be a hybrid meeting. The in-person attendees can arrive after 6:30 pm, with discussion beginning at 7. Nancy Leventon will lead the discussion of *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. **If you will be attending in-person, please let Jan know that you are coming.** Everyone is welcome!

About the Book: A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Kentucky, 1850. Jarrett, an enslaved groom, and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. As the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name painting the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. This novel is not just about a horse and its groom. It is also about art, history, sleuthing, and a great story spanning many generations.

Planning Ahead: The May book will be *Of Boys and Men* by Richard Reeves. The discussion leader will be Jo Martens and the hostess will be Kerry Serl. Book selection for the coming year will commence in May. Be thinking now of great books to nominate for our reading list.

What We Are Reading

Nancy Leventon

Donna Loucks is recommending **Iona Whishaw**, who wrote a mystery series of 10 books set in the Kootenay Lake area of British Columbia and featuring Lane Winslow, a young woman who did intelligence work in World War II and now just wants to escape Britain and start a new life. But of course, she is immediately embroiled in a series of mysterious deaths and against her firm intentions, falls in love with the local detective.

Jan Leth: Three really good books which I have read recently are: ***Oath and Honor*** by Liz Cheney. Cheney has put together a very chilling and accurate narrative of the January 6 insurrection and the attempted destruction of the White House and its aftermath leading to the Congressional Committee hearings. A very good fiction book is ***The Women*** by Kristin Hannah. This book is a depiction of Army nurses during the Viet Nam war and the aftermath of them having PTSD and being forgotten as very important service members in our military. If you are looking for another good nonfiction book I would recommend ***Watergate Girl*** by Jill Winehouse. Winehouse was the ONLY woman on the legal team which prosecuted the Whitehouse Plumbers during Nixon's presidency. The findings led to Nixon's ultimate resignation.

Barb Selis shares her thoughts on the following: My very favorite book today is ***American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*** by Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin. 25 years of research we learn about Oppie as the Dutch called him. He mastered Latin and Greek by age 9 and later Sanskrit and Dutch and was asked to join the New York Mineralogical Society at age 12 thinking he was an adult by his writings. He loved minerals, writing and poetry and writing poetry. His early education was at the Ethical Cultural School where they taught deed not creed. He loved New Mexico where he and his brother could ride horseback and camp under the stars. At Los Alamos he and his wife gave a party to come dressed as suppressed desire. He even winked at Senator McCarthy. As Newsweek said, "His life does not influence us. It haunts us".

NATIONAL AAUW

The voting period for **OPEN UP AAUW** will begin on April 3rd and run through May 15th. Passing the proposed bylaws changes, and being a more inclusive organization, are critical to the future of AAUW. If you're not already familiar, there are many resources on the initiative at the [National AAUW website](#). The voting period for OPEN UP AAUW will begin on April 3rd and run through May 15th. Passing the proposed bylaws changes, and being a more inclusive organization, are critical to the future of AAUW. PLEASE VOTE!



Lewis County Branch AAUW Program Meeting - March 7, 2024

The Lewis County Branch of AAUW met on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the Gathering Place at Stillwaters Estates. There were issues regarding the internet connection. As a result, the Zoom participants were not able to attend the meeting.

President Laura Hewett was away. Donna Loucks presided over the meeting. Donna welcomed members and new members Kelly Stanley and Wendy Tripp. There were no guests. Donna read the Mission Statement. Three sets of sign-up sheets were sent around; two involving the book sale and one a hostess sign-up sheet for next year. Members were encouraged to sign up for a shift at the book sale, emphasizing that they should sign up for one shift only, providing opportunity for everyone interested to have a shift. The week after this meeting will be a busy one at the Lutheran Church for sorting and packing in preparation for the big move on Sunday, March 17. There was a question regarding credit card payment availability at the book sale.

Member, Corene Jones-Litteer presented the program on a brief history of AAUW and a further expounding on some of the women who have benefitted from AAUW assistance in their education and careers.

Author Event: Jo Martens spoke about plans for the Evening with Authors that will be held on September 6. Olivia Hawker and Garth Stein will be the featured authors. Matt Young, from Centralia College, will be the moderator. A planning meeting of the committee will be held at Jo's house, March 25th, at 1 pm.

Book Sale: Sunday, March 17, will be the big moving day. A Boy Scout troop will be helping with the transport. Members who have trailers or covered vehicles are wanted. At 2 pm, the Scouts will arrive with the books. Members are needed to direct the Scouts with the distribution of boxes of books. Tables will be set up and subject areas will be determined. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week the books will be set out and organized by subject areas. There has been excellent publicity for the event.

Membership: There will be several gatherings for new members in the coming weeks.

Equal Pay Day: There will be a table at Centralia College on March 11th, between 9 and 1. Fun activities are planned for this event including a trivia wheel and candy bar distribution.

Brochure: AAUW brochures had been handed out at this meeting. It was determined that the green brochure's information is correct; the orange brochure is from a previous year.

Donna thanked the hostess committee for their refreshments: Vickie Draper, Peggy Hammer and Judy Scheer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Leventon, Secretary

Lewis County Branch AAUW - Business/Board Meeting - March 27, 2024

President Laura Hewett opened the meeting, which was held via Zoom. Approximately 15-17 members were in attendance.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous Business/Board meeting were approved as digitally transmitted.

Treasury: Treasurer Donna Loucks presented an overview of the current budget. Cathy Cavness questioned the overage of the STEM contribution. Donna explained that The Chehalis Foundation had requested an additional \$1,000 in scholarship for this coming summer. We will hold off with the additional funding until we hear about GeoGirls. Renae Seegmiller asked about the Endowment Fund amount. Nancy Leventon asked about how much was in the investment account within the Endowment Fund.

Book Sale: Sale Chair Donna Loucks reported that the sale had grossed about \$20,000, the highest amount ever. Credit card fees came to \$175. There are \$1,000 in expenses (Boy Scouts, fee to the Lutheran Church for accumulation and sorting of books, fee to The Moose for the rental of the space for a week). Renae estimated that 95% of the books sold. Thirty-eight members contributed their time and energy on the sale. Renae reported

that she is stepping down from the three-person chair. Donna said that several members have indicated that they would be willing to take leadership roles next year. Kathy Halsan stated that the book sale is a big service for Lewis County. Jan Leth proposed raising the prices on the books and other items. Donna said that decision would be deferred to the core participant meeting that is going to be held in the future. She is going to suggest that core members take on an in-charge role in the future. It was agreed that it was great to have some of our newest members take an active role in the book sale this year.

Evening with the Authors: Chair Jo Martens gave a review of the sub-committees. She said that design services for the posters and tickets was still needed. 100% of the proceeds are going to Hope Alliance. Ticket sales methods were reviewed.

Committee Reports

Technology: Jo Martens said that she had tested our new computer with the wifi at The Gathering Place, and it was working fine. There were serious problems with connecting to the wifi at the last program meeting.

Directory Survey: Renae and Jeanne Nygard had met to discuss issues of directory content and methods of collecting that information. Part of the survey coming soon to all members will be to ask what members would like to do within the organization.

Possible New Venue: Donna said that she had a conversation with Diane Williams, one of the owners of Stillwaters. Mrs. Williams was unaware of the issues of possible conflict with our rental of the space for our meetings. Twelve of our members live at Stillwaters. It has been suggested to offer to pay more in rental each month.

Membership: Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan reported that we have 96 members currently, with 4 more individuals expressing serious interest in joining. One person desires to be our 100th member. The two chairs had attended a meeting with the Olympia AAUW branch. That branch meeting was on the topic of Freedom to Read with a librarian from Olympia taking about censorship issues. Olympia is putting together a meeting with AAUW branches within the five-county Timberland system in the future. The membership team is planning another New Member gathering at British Bites in Centralia.

Nominating Committee: A committee will be formed to research possible replacements for the positions of Secretary and Program Chair. Job descriptions should be reviewed by the committee and personal contacts should be made with possible contenders for these positions. Jeanne Nygard was asked to chair that nominating committee.

Movers and Shakers: Kathy Halsan and Cathy Cavness reported on the Equal Pay Day that was held at Centralia College. They deemed it a success with great interest in the trivia question wheel and the candy bar distribution. They said that they would be disseminating information on public policy, bills and initiatives on the November ballot. They will be at a table at Centralia College on Earth Day, which is April 22.

Expanding Your Horizons: Corene Jones-Litteer said that EYH will not have access to Corbet Theater for the event. Another space in the TransAlta Commons will be utilized. The Foyer to the TAC would be used for registration. Sonja "Swede" Svenson will be the co-chair along with Corene. A chair for student snacks is needed.

Amazon Wish List: Jeanne Nygard reported that the Camano Island-Stanwood Branch has set up a Wish List on Amazon to benefit the domestic violence organization that they support.

Announcements: The following meeting dates have been set: Program Meeting: April 4 at The Gathering Place. April 17, Business/Board Meeting via Zoom, Authors Event planning meeting: April 8 at Jo Marten's home and also via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Leventon, Secretary

CALENDAR

Monday, April 1 – 10:00 am.....Java Break
Thursday, April 4 – 7:00 pm.....Branch Program
Monday, April 8 – 1:00 pm.....Evening with Authors Planning
Tuesday, April 9 – 1:00 pmCinema Chicks
Wednesday, April 10 – 9:00 amMiles & Smiles
Thursday, April 11 – 8:30 amEarly Morning Discussion
Monday, April 15 – 10:00 am.....Java Break
Tuesday, April 16 – 7:00 pmRavenous Readers
Wednesday, April 17 – 7:00 pmGeneral Business Meeting
Friday, April 19 – 2:00 pmPages and Beans
Saturday, April 20.....Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, April 21 – 12:30 pmState Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 23 – 7:00 pmTravel Group
Tuesday, April 29 – 10:00 amArt Group

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
Publicity:	Peggy Hammer
Book Sale:	Betty Garrett, Donna Loucks, & Renae Seegmiller
Evening with Authors:	Jo Martens
Expanding Your Horizons:	Corene Jones-Litteer & Swede Swenson
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