

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County Branch

March 2024

BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, March 7, 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

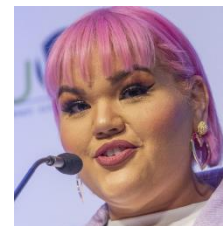
BRANCH PROGRAM

March 7, 2024

THE FACES OF AAUW and FUNDING WOMEN'S HISTORY

When Corene Jones-Litteer was president of the Lewis County branch of AAUW last year, she happened on a part of the national AAUW website that contained pictures and brief information about not only the founders and leaders of AAUW but also the women who have been granted fellowships and grants for research in their field. Her thought at the time was "What a great topic for a program."

Corene will take us such a journey, briefly talking about the leaders in the early years of AAUW and other notable members in its 130 years. AAUW has given over \$135 million to more than 13,000 women so they could follow their dreams. From astronauts to zoologist, the recipients of AAUW's fellowships, grants and awards represent nearly every imaginable field of endeavor. The journey will continue with a sample of these ambitious and talented women.



EVENING WITH AN AUTHOR

Jo Martens, Chair

Volunteers Needed: It is time to pull together a team of volunteers to plan for our *Evening With Authors* event on September 6, 2024. Members are needed to plan for ticketing, refreshments, decorations, and a possible basket raffle. The event will be held in the Rose Bowman Room in the TransAlta Commons and we will also have access to the lobby. There will be more information available at the branch meeting on March 7. The first planning meeting will be 1:00 p.m., Monday, March 25, at Jo Martens' house, 108 Davis View Dr. in Centralia. If you have any questions, please contact Jo.

General Business Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 27 - 7:00 p.m.

Due to the book sale, the March General Business Meeting will be held the fourth Wednesday of the month. Send suggested agenda items to Laura Hewett prior to Saturday, March 23.

BOOK SALE

Donna Loucks, Betty Garrett, Renae Seegmiller

Our annual Book Sale is this month! It's lots of work but lots of fun too! There are many ways you can help make it a success! Remember that next week is the last week we are taking book donations.

The next two weeks: We will continue to sort, box, and then re-box the books at St. John's Lutheran Church. More help is definitely needed. Not only do you get first look at the books as you sort, but you also have a chance to socialize with other members. If you can help, please make sure you are on Renae Seegmiller's email list in order to schedule times when you can help. Times available: Tuesday March 5 and Thursday March 7 from 1:00 – 3:00, Wednesday March 6 from 10:00 to 1:00, Monday March 11 to Friday March 15, each day there are two shifts, from 10:00 – noon and from 1:00 – 3:00. By getting on the email list, it will be easy to notify workers if there are any changes to this schedule.

March 17-20: On Sunday the 17th, Scout Troop 373 will move the boxes from the church to the Moose Lodge. We need some members at the Moose after 2 pm to direct the Scouts where to put the boxes. Monday through Wednesday we will be organizing the boxes and putting up signs. We've decided to move some of the books in closed boxes because they are easier to move, so we'll be putting those books into the "spine up" open boxes after they are at the Moose.

During the sale, March 21-23: We need people to work, mostly as cashiers, during the sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Contact Jeanne Nygard if you haven't signed up for a shift.

Ways to help with publicity: Peggy Hammer is doing a great job with publicity, but everyone can do a bit to help. If you are on Facebook or Instagram and see something that Peggy has posted, spread the word to your friends by liking, sharing, commenting, etc. If you aren't on social media, you probably have lots of friends in your address book who aren't AAUW members and live locally. Send them an email with the information or a poster. (Just remember to use "bcc" so that you aren't sharing everyone's email address with everyone else.) And it's not too late to put up the book sale posters. More will be available at the March meeting or print them yourself. We're looking forward to another successful sale, our only fund-raising event which funds scholarships, contributions and all our branch activities.



SHARING & CARING

Our membership is growing. The branch membership is now at 92. Please, take the time to introduce yourself and welcome new members when you attend branch meetings, or interest groups. We want these ladies to be glad they joined!

Julie Nurse, recently joined in January, also joined the ranks of those of us who have knee replacements. Her surgery was February 22. We hope all goes well with her recovery.

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

Spring hopefully will be on time in March as our birthday ladies celebrate another year anniversary

Swede Svenson 3/7
Maryann Goree 3/11
Jennifer Lynam 3/16
Peg Warren 3/16
Kelly Zuck-Stanley 3/23
Vicki Draper 3/24
Kris Camenzind 3/25
Catharine Weber 3/27
Julie Spalding 3/31



Mariama Ceesay
Recipient of the Nancy Leventon Tribute
Scholarship for 2023-2024

Mariama was born in Banjul, The Gambia. She moved to America at age 9 with her parents and 4 siblings. She was fluent in 3 languages but her main language was Mandingo. Moving to Chehalis was an obvious culture shock and she struggled to form friendships and felt insecure. Playing sports in Middle School and High School helped her form friendships, build confidence and develop a very strong work ethic. Unfortunately, when Mariama was a sophomore, her father died and as the oldest child she assumed more responsibilities at home by helping her mom and caring for her four siblings. Through all this she managed to maintain a 3.7 GPA while balancing her athletic pursuits, her academic classes and family responsibilities. Here are my takeaways from our conversation about how things are going for her at SPU.

- Mariama has changed her major to nursing and is enthusiastically embracing the curriculum!
- She loves EVERYTHING about Seattle Pacific University; the school, the people and the professors!
- She's thriving in her new environment!
- Mariama is so appreciative and grateful for the scholarship she was awarded.
- She thanks AAUW very much!

MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

New Member Get Together - All new and newish, and long- time members are invited to our March 9, Get Together, Mint City Roasters, 539 North Market Blvd., Chehalis, 1:00 to 2ish. Drop by. We will be chatting, enjoying wonderful coffee, and even better company.

During February three new members joined our branch. Please welcome Amber Buck, Kelly Stanley, and Wendy Tripp. Amber enjoys helping, giving back to the community, and reading in her down time. Give them a call, send a note, and find them at the next event. Walking, hiking, reading, gardening, knitting (crochet too!) and new crafts are of interest to Kelly. Kelly volunteers with Kids Klostet, and is a mentor for At Risk Youth. Hiking, book/ travel groups and Cinema Chicks are of interest to Wendy. She would like to explore helping with EYH, the book sale, the Scholarship committee, and Immediate Community Needs. As a long time dance mom, Wendy continues to be involved with the Southwest Washington Dance Company even though her girls are long grown. Welcome to our branch, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to seeing you.

Invite Your Friends! Brochures will be available at our next meeting for you to extend an invitation to a friend or two to join AAUW. We are nearing the one hundred member mark!





WHAT WE ARE READING NOW

Nancy Leventon

Gathering of Finches by Jane Kirkpatrick: Corene Jones-Litteer wrote this about the book: It was a delightful book that I call fictional history since the events she included actually happened. It's the story of the Simpson empire's growth in the North Bend, Oregon area and the development of Shore Acres. I wanted to read it since I visited the Shore Acres State Park many times while I lived in the Empire District of Coos Bay in the mid-70s. It's not a new title so TRL doesn't have it.

Sharon Lyons has the following books that she has read and enjoyed: *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is an interesting read. Hard to get into, but Anthony Doerr's writing is worth it. He has a unique approach to five stories at once. *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt is a fun read. If you enjoyed *6:30 in Lessons in Chemistry*, you will like the animal character here, too.

Nancy has been reading *The Wager* by David Grann. This non-fiction author has taken up the 1742 South American shipwreck of HMS The Wager. It was amazing to me that the author found so much historical information and to write the sea saga into a riveting and engrossing tale of "Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder." A great read for sure.

Swede Swenson recommends the following podcasts and articles: US Census news (which comes every day), [Talking Points Memo](#), [Economic news](#) (which covers international economics too). [Why We Need NATO](#) - a good article that boils it down to three points.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Kathy Halsan, Kathy Tennyson, Cathy Cavness

Equal Pay Day - March 12, 2024 - Equal Pay Day symbolizes how far into the year the average woman must work in order to have earned what the average man had earned the entire previous year. Women must work all of 2023, and into March 2024, to have the same earnings as a man earned in 2023. Our Lewis County AAUW branch will have an informational booth at Centralia College on March 12, 9:00-1:00, in the Trans Alta Student Commons (TAC) building. Our goal is to provide information and a sweet treat reminder of the continuing need for equal pay action for all women. If you would like to help staff the booth please call or email Kathy Halsan or Cathy Cavness. Everyone is welcome to drop by the booth on March 12!

Immediate Community Needs - After discussion and a vote at the January meeting, our branch approved and gave two donations to Hope Alliance. The donation box we make available four times a year yielded \$300 in cash and gift cards for women in crisis. Also, our branch donated to Hope Alliance \$8,500 from funds accrued during the years of the pandemic shut down when usual donations for activities were not needed. We are thankful to members who make these donations to make a difference in the lives of Hope Alliance clients and families.

Our next (public policy) **Movers and Shakers Zoom Meeting** will be Monday, March 25, 6:30-7:30. Let's chat about recent legislation impacting bills supported by AAUW-WA.

Olympia Branch AAUW Book Banning/Censoring Presentation Olympia Branch AAUW has invited Lewis County branch to their March meeting presentation. The speaker will be a representative from Timberland Regional Library discussing recent issues concerning book banning and censorship. The meeting will be held March 19 at the Lacey Timberland Library, 500 College Street East, Lacey, 98503, 2:00 PM.



INTEREST GROUPS



EARLY MORNING DISCUSSION

Norma Green

Music, Dance, and Entertainment in the 1800s is the topic for this month when the group meets on Thursday, March 14 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. Along the trails on the arduous journey to move to the American West, the Pioneers found ways to entertain themselves when time allowed. Sometimes they also happened upon existing entertainment along the way. In addition to the Music, Dance, and other Entertainment created by the Settlers, we'll learn about the same entertainment topics related to American Indians, Spanish-Americans, Cowboys, and other cultures met along the way. 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.

MILES AND SMILES

Laura Hewett

We are excited to be entering the spring season for our upcoming hikes. On March 13th we will be visiting the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge in Thurston County and March 27th our destination will be Squaxin Park (formerly Priest Point Park) in Olympia. The March 23rd Miles and Smiles email will have specific parking lot directions as there are two parking lots in the area. We have some new destinations for this year's hikes and welcome any suggestions for new places to walk. Please contact Laura Hewett if you have any questions about our upcoming destinations.



TRAVEL GROUP

Donna Loucks

Travel Group will meet March 26, the fourth Tuesday. 6:45 social, 7:00 program. Donna Loucks will share her story and photos from her 2-month driving trip to Alaska last summer. Everyone is welcome!



CINEMA CHICKS

Nancy Kruger

After looking at the time commitments of members for helping with the upcoming used book sale, it was decided that we will not have our regularly scheduled monthly Cinema Chicks meeting for March. Instead, we will meet next on Tuesday, April 9th, at Renae Seegmiller's home at 1:00. We will view and discuss two films that day, *The Last Repair Shop*, a short film about a shop that repairs musical instruments for school children, and *Nyad*, the story of Diana Nyad who attempts to become the first person ever to swim from Cuba to Florida. Kathy Tennyson will lead the discussions for these two films.

In the meantime, there are several interesting films that are playing locally or will be opening in the month of March. If you plan to attend one of these and would like company, send an email to other members or to me with your plans so we can possibly join you. The Academy Awards will be presented on March 10th this year and might also provide suggestions for films to see.



ART GROUP

Bonnie Blake

Art Group is meeting Monday, March 25, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Bonnie Blake's home. All are welcome. Please bring a brunch item to share and your own project.

RAVENOUS READERS

Nancy Leventon

The March meeting of the Ravenous Readers will be held on Tuesday, March 19, at the home of Bonnie Blake. Come after 6:30 pm. The discussion will begin at 7 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting. If you will be attending in-person, please let Bonnie know. The book for discussion is *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

About this novel: 1960s Florida. Kept on the straight and narrow by his grandmother, Elwood Curtis is about to enroll in the local black college. But for a black boy in the Jim Crow South, one mistake is enough to destroy the future. He is sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, whose mission statement says it provides “physical, intellectual and moral training”; so the delinquent boys in their charge can become “honorable and honest men.”



PAGES & BEANS

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet on Friday, March 15, at the Centralia Timberland Library meeting room, 110 South Silver. Peggy Barth will lead the discussion of *The Deficit Myth* by Stephanie Kelton. A leading thinker and visible public advocate of modern monetary theory delivers a radically different, bold, new understanding for how to build a just and prosperous society. If you want to join via Zoom, please let Renae Seegmiller know.

Planning ahead: In April Barbara Selis will lead the discussion of *The Year of Living Danishly; uncovering the secrets of the world's happiest country* by Helen Russell. The author recounts her experience living in Denmark for a year and six years later, an update. She concludes it's a messy and flawed place - but can still be a model for a better way of living.

Humanities Washington is continuing to offer free programs, some of which are online. Check out their [website](#) and look for these online programs in March:

March 2 - 2:00 p.m. - *And It Has Pockets! The Battle for Women's Clothing Equality*

March 11 6:00 p.m. - *Un-American Activities: The Blacklist Era and Hollywood "Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?"*

March 14 6:00 p.m. - *Wonderful, Weird, and Worrisome Objects in Washington State Museums*

March 28 6:00 p.m. - *Measuring Mourning: A Ritual for Loss*

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.

Lewis County Branch AAUW
February 1, 2024

The Lewis County Branch of AAUW met at the Gathering Place at Stillwaters Estates, on Thursday, February 1, 2024. President Laura Hewett welcomed members and guests. Guests were Lisa Grant and Deb Parnam. The Mission Statement was read.

Jeanne Nygard passed around a book sale worker sign up sheet. Donna Loucks passed out posters for the book sale.

Lisa Grant, Superintendent of Schools for Centralia School District, and Deb Parnam, School Board Member for Centralia were introduced. Lisa spoke about the upcoming school levy for Centralia and urged our membership to vote. The student committee working for the levy passage was complimented.

Peggy Hammer, member of the Lewis County Branch, was introduced. Peggy talked about her experiences as a Red Cross Volunteer. She spoke about programs within the Red Cross and how the organization has helped our area with natural disaster relief, installation of fire detectors, verification of truth and fraud, and home safety. Of particular note were Peggy's experiences with connecting people of the Maui wildfires of this year.

Corene Jones-Litteer announced that the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) group will be providing a workshop/training program on March 2 and 3.

Donna reminded us about promoting and supporting the upcoming book sale. Posters need to be placed and announcements in social and local media will be done.

The Hostess Committee of Kristine Camenzind and Michelle Bates were thanked for the refreshments.

Cathy Cavness announced our newest member, Lizzie McCoy. There was a very successful New Member Coffee at Mint City Roasting.

Cathy also announced that the Movers and Shakers will be meeting via Zoom on February 19, at 6:30 pm.

Kristi Nelson announced that the March program will be presented by Corene Jones-Litter. She will speak about women who have been helped by AAUW.

A thank you was given to Jeanne Nygard for the work that she has done preparing the newest version of our AAUW handbook. Handbooks were available for distribution at this meeting to members. They will also be available at Java Breaks, interest groups and at the March meeting. After that time they will be mailed out.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Leventon, Secretary

Lewis County AAUW
Business/Board Meeting

The Lewis County Branch Business/Board meeting met via Zoom on Wednesday, February 21. Approximately 17 members met.

President Laura Hewett opened the meeting by welcoming members, including one of our newest members, Kelly Stanley.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as digitally distributed.

Treasury: Treasurer Donna Loucks reported a treasury balance of \$16,956.82 which includes savings, checking and reserved funds. She reported that a check for \$8500 had been sent to Hope Alliance, as previously approved.

Book Sale: The sale will be in March. Book collection and sorting will be done on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contributions keep coming in. There is plenty to do and helpers are needed.

Evening with the Authors Committee: Discussion was centered on the type of a flyer to have ready for the book sale distribution. Detailed information will be coming. It was announced that Marilynn Chintella had resigned

the co-chair position with Jo Martens. A moderator for the evening has been determined. An additional author, Garth Stein, will be at the event. There will be discussion with the Centralia College Foundation as to whether we can join with them for the license to sell wine.

Hybrid Meetings Technology: Jo Martens reported on some difficulty with the technology at the Ravenous Readers meeting. The HDMI cable did not carry the sound to the video device.

Handbooks: Jeanne Nygard reported that the handbooks are done. The group will most likely need more directories to finish out the year as new members keep coming onto the roster. She is investigating on-line directories and handbooks.

Branch Assets and Records: Renae Seegmiller reported that she is unable to head this committee. The position of Historian should be encouraged to take a larger role in this project.

Scholarship: Nancy Kruger said that there are 30 applications scholarships. The committee now has seven members, so that workload will be evenly distributed. There will be a meeting of the committee on March 28th at 10 am, in the meeting room at the Chehalis Timberland Library. Documents will be scanned and sent. New member, Wendy Tripp, indicated that she would like to be on the scholarship committee.

Expanding Your Horizons: Corene Jones-Litteer has agreed to co-chair this committee. A co-chair is needed. The venue has been reserved. Sharon Lyons will be working on the presenters. The date for the event is October 19, 2024.

Survey/Directory: Renae Seegmiller has targeted April as the time to send out the survey and then the follow-up. She is hoping for a better representation of the members.

Membership: Co-chairs Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan inquired about how to get a count of the membership by using Google. It was indicated that there is a "roster" within the documents. The Saturday coffee gatherings will continue with the next one on March 12. The membership team will have a presence at Equal Pay Day at Centralia College. It was suggested that candy bars be distributed to those attending. The team will also have a table at Earth Day.

Movers and Shakers: It was recommended that AAUW have a presence at the Timberland Library Board meetings. The Olympia Branch of AAUW has invited our branch to attend their March meeting when a representative from Timberland Regional Library will be present to discuss censorship and book banning.

Travel Group: The Travel Group meeting will be on Tuesday, February 27, via Zoom.

AI Summary of Meetings on Zoom: Jeanne Nygard will look into utilizing AI on Zoom for the record of meetings.

Sharon Lyons/Green Valley Arizona Update: Sharon spoke about the activities of her Green Valley Branch in Arizona. Their LunaFest replacement activity is slow in ticket sales, but high in sponsorship. The group had an outside rally on Valentine's Day with Violence Against Women being the topic. It snowed that day, but they were stalwart in their presence. Their group also had a meeting topic of missing and murdered indigenous women in their area.

Meeting Dates in March: Renae asked about the efficiency of having two meetings in March. She suggested having only the program meeting on the 7th. Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan want two meetings. There was discussion on this topic. It was agreed that there will be two meetings in March: Program meeting on the 7th, and a Business/Board meeting on the 27th .

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Leventon, Secretary

CALENDAR

Monday, March 4 – 10:00 am.....Java Break

Thursday, March 7 – 7:00 pm.....Branch Program

Wednesday, March 13 – 9:00 amMiles & Smiles

Thursday, March 14 – 8:30 amEarly Morning Discussion

Friday, March 15 – 2:00 pmPages and Beans

Tuesday, March 19 – 7:00 pmRavenous Readers

Monday, March 18 – 10:00 am.....Java Break

March 18 to 20BOOK SALE PREPARATION

March 21 to 23BOOK SALE

Saturday, March 23Newsletter Deadline

Monday, March 25 – 10:00 amArt Group

Monday, March 25 – 1:00 pmEvening with an Author Planning Meeting

Monday, March 25 – 6:30 pmMovers & Shakers

Tuesday, March 26 – 7:00 pmTravel Group

Wednesday, March 27 – 9:00 amMiles & Smiles

Wednesday, March 27 – 7:00 pmGeneral Business Meeting

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:	Corene Jones-Litteer
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

