

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County Branch

May 2024

BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, May 2 - 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

Hostesses:

Ann Tuning, Donna Loucks,
Sharon Winningham



BRANCH PROGRAM

May 2, 2024

TransAlta: Transition from Steam Plant

Cody Duncan, TransAlta Centralia Team

TransAlta is Canada's largest producer of wind power and the largest producer of hydro power in Alberta. The company operates over 58 renewable and energy storage facilities in Canada, U.S. and Australia. The Centralia Plant is TransAlta's last coal burning facility and will be phased out by the end of 2025, a step towards the company's goal of 100% mix of renewables and natural gas. We are all interested in that process and what happens afterward. Cody Duncan from the Centralia Team will speak at the May Branch Meeting about the transition and beyond. Please join us for what promises to be a very informative evening and bring your questions.



General Business Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, May 15 - 7:00 p.m.

The General Business Meeting will allow discussion for agenda items for the branch, rather than taking time at the Program meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Send suggested agenda items to Laura Hewett prior to Saturday, May 11.

ELECTION CANDIDATES

Here are the positions and nominees for each:

President: Laura Hewett

President-Elect: Viki Draper

Co-Vice Presidents for Programs: Wendy Tripp and
Kelly Stanley

Secretaries (shared): Carol Kostanich, Sharon
Winningham, Robin Warren

Treasurer: Donna Loucks

Membership Vice Presidents: Kathy Halsan and Cathy
Cavness

We will vote on this slate of candidates at our next
Branch Meeting on May 2nd.

Women Supporting Women Scholarships 2024-2025 Academic Year

Jasmine McMahan
Jan Leth Tribute Scholarship

Kendra DiMaggio
Kate Gregg Memorial Scholarship

Tiffany Cummings
Sandy Godsey Memorial Scholarship

Maya Hankins
Donna Loucks Tribute Scholarship

Makensee Taliaferro
Gerald Vandebroe Memorial Scholarship

Maritza Alvarado
Luana Graves Tribute Scholarship

Edith Stratis
Kristi Nelson Tribute Scholarship

SHARING & CARING

Jo Martens

Barb Selis joined the ranks of members with knee replacements on April 13th. Maree Lerchen had open heart surgery on April 16th and is doing well. She has her wonderful daughters with her. Amber Buck is scheduled for surgery on April 26th and will be recovering for several weeks. Cards and good wishes would be appreciated by all three.

Birthdays for May

Barb Charest 5/2

Jennifer Krueger 5/13

Tory Graf 5/15

Linda Merriman 5/16

MJ Marsh 5/17

Norma Green 5/21

Priscilla Tiller 5/22

Barb Selis 5/24

Renae Seegmiller 5/25



We wish these all these ladies a very happy birthday and hope they each have sunshine for their celebrations.

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

WSWS NAMED HONOREES



Java Break Changes

At our May 6th & May 20th Java Breaks we will be meeting, 10:00 a.m., at **“Once Upon a Thyme.”** 1090 NW State Ave, Chehalis. Please make a note of the change. It has been suggested Java Breaks enter a new phase of moving around and supporting other local venues. Feedback and suggestions are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

Thank you to the many members who have paid dues for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. If you have not paid, Kathy Halsan, Cathy Cavness and Donna Loucks will be available at the May 2 meeting to help you. Please contact them if you have questions. Please make your checks to Lewis County AAUW; cash or credit cards will be accepted too. Thank you for your prompt attention!

Our next new member gathering will be Saturday, May 18, 1:00 – 2:ish at British Bites, 108 South Washington Avenue, Centralia. ALL MEMBERS are invited to drop by to join us to discuss upcoming AAUW events, and make new friends. Hope to see you May 18!





Help Wanted

Are you interested in helping young women on their educational path after high school? Women Supporting Women Scholarships is looking for a LCAAUW member to fill a vacancy on their board. The seven members of the board each serve a three-year term with a limit of two consecutive terms. Responsibilities include sharing information about the scholarships with high schools and the Lewis County community, receiving completed applications, and participating in the selection of the scholarship recipients. Board members also make occasional outreach to the recipients by mail or email to offer encouragement and to see how their school year is going. The board meets approximately three times a year beginning in September. If you have questions about the position or are interested, please contact Nancy Kruger.

INTEREST GROUPS

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Kathy Tennyson, Cathy Cavness, Kathy Halsan
Please join us for our monthly Zoom meeting on Monday, May 20, 6:30 – 7:30. Watch the WAAG for the Zoom link. We will discuss the initiatives which will be on the ballot in November, as well as our joint meeting with Olympia branch public policy group in June. Contact any of the KCathys to be added to the email list.

ART GROUP

Bonnie Blake

The May Art Group will meet on May 27th. Details to follow via an Art Group email. If you would like to be added to that email, please contact Bonnie Blake.

April Collett, an AAUW member, has offered to share her knitting skills to members wishing to learn to knit. If you are interested, please contact April at ascallett@duck.com

What We Are Reading

Nancy Leventon

Jan Snider has been reading the Maggie Hope series by Susan Macneal, and is enjoying the 11-book novels, which she has read 6 of to date. This mystery series features young Maggie Hope, a British-born American math whiz, brought up by an aunt living in the United States, now living in London. In the first book she gets a job as one of many secretaries for Winston Churchill. But soon after, she begins using her code-breaker skills and later her general “spy” talents to aid the British during WWII. In later books, she gets involved with helping the British in the war against the Nazis. The 11 novels show Maggie in a variety of settings—London, Scotland, Berlin, Paris, and even Washington and Hollywood in the United States. The novels are filled with espionage, mystery, and intrigue—a treat for both WWII enthusiasts and mystery lovers.

Kathy Halsan has been reading a great history entitled *George Washington Carver*, by Christina Vella. She is currently reading *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. She writes that both are excellent.

Jo Martens is also recommending *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. This is a wonderful story with wonderful characters. It weaves together the relationships in a crumbling neighborhood that has changed over time from a Jewish enclave as Black families moved in and an underlying mystery that bridges generations. *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* and its beloved proprietor remained as anchors in the neighborhood throughout the changes.

TRAVEL GROUP

Donna Loucks

Travel Group will meet on Tuesday, May 28. 6:45 social, 7:00 program. Jeanne Nygard will share photos of their trip to Argentina. Zoom and in-person, location to be announced later.



CINEMA CHICKS

Nancy Kruger



Cinema Chicks will gather on Tuesday, May 14, at Renae Seegmiller's home (1:00) to view and discuss the film *American Fiction*. This 2023 comedy-drama is based on the 2001 novel "Erasure" and received 5 Academy Award nominations. It follows a frustrated novelist-professor who writes an outlandish satire of stereotypical "Black" books, only for it to be mistaken for serious literature and published to high sales and critical praise. Everyone is invited to join us that day but please let Renae know you will be attending. Contact Nancy Kruger with any questions or to be added to the Cinema Chicks email list.

MILES AND SMILES

Laura Hewett

We were blessed with good weather for our April hikes and noticed signs of spring popping up along the trails. On April 10th eight of us visited McLane Creek Nature Trail in the Capitol Forest and were able to enjoy the well-maintained park in addition to observing large turtles hanging out with some ducks in the beaver pond. On April 24th we headed down to Lake Sacajawea in Longview with many new flowers and trees budding out.

In May we are planning to visit Brewery Falls in Tumwater and to Nisqually Wildlife on the 22nd for our second hike of the month. This walk was previously cancelled due to extreme weather. Please let [Laura Hewett](#) know if you would like to be added to the Miles & Smiles list and you will receive an email on the Saturday prior to the next hike with additional information.



PAGES & BEANS

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet on Friday, May 17, at the Centralia Timberland Library meeting room. We will jointly discuss *Go Back to Where You Came From* by Wajahat Ali. In his refreshingly bold, hopeful and uproarious memoir, Ali Wajahat describes the dangers of Islamophobia, white supremacy, and chocolate hummus, peppering personal stories with astute insights into national security, immigration, and pop culture. Ali offers indispensable lessons for cultivating a more compassionate, inclusive, and delicious America. This will be a hybrid meeting. Please let Renae know if you will be attending via zoom.

Planning ahead: In June we will select our books for the following year. Start thinking about what you have recently read that you think the group would enjoy.



RAVENOUS READERS

Nancy Leventon

The Ravenous Readers will be meeting on Tuesday, May 21, at the home of Kerry Serl. If you will be attending in-person, please let Kerry know that you will be coming. It would probably be a good idea to carpool to Kerry's house. If you need directions, please contact her. This will be a hybrid meeting. The book for discussion will be *Of Boys and Men* by Richard Reeves. Jo Martens will be leading the discussion.

May is the month for initial book selection for the reading list for next year. If you need information as to how we select books, and would like to participate, you can contact Nancy Leventon for more information. Planning Ahead: the June book will be *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. The hostess will be Renae Seegmiller and the discussion leader will be Jan Leth. We will be meeting on June 18. A little about the book: "For fans of *A Man Called Ove*, a luminous debut novel about a widow's unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus reluctantly residing at the local aquarium-and the truths she finally uncovers about her son's disappearance 30 years ago."

EARLY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

Norma Green

On May 9th at 8:30 a.m., via Zoom, EMD will cover a variety of topics related to the development of the American West in the 1800s. Categories of topics we've not fully discussed this year are:

Literature: cowboy poetry, western fiction, non-fiction, diaries; letters; origin of phrases such as "Beating a Dead Horse", etc.

Transportation & communication: covered wagons, railroads, stage coaches, Pony Express, telegraphs, telephones

Religion: Catholic priests and missions, Protestant missionaries, Mormons, newer non-Christian religions, Native American beliefs

Women's roles in development of the West: cowgirls, madams, pioneers, Native Americans

The settlers' use of natural foods, and ethnic cuisines.

Law and Order – Outlaws, sheriffs, the Pinkerton group, etc.

Any questions, or to be added to the email list, contact Norma Green.

BRANCH MINUTES

Lewis County AAUW Program Meeting - April 4, 2024

Program Vice-President Kristi Nelson, in President Laura Hewett's absence, opened the meeting at The Gathering Place. She welcomed one of our newest members, Amber Buck. There were no visitors. Kristi read the Mission Statement. A signup sheet for hostess assignments for the next membership year, 2024-25, was passed around. Cathy Cavness announced that dues for the next membership year would be taken at this meeting, and each meeting thereafter, until the deadline at the end of June. Members are encouraged to pay dues well before that deadline in June.

Kristi turned the program meeting over to Judy Scheer, who gave a brief introduction to the Master Gardener Program and then introduced Master Gardener Mary Jo Christiansen, who presented the program. She spoke about the history of the program, its beginnings with Extension Agents partnering with Washington State University, to offer a Master Gardener Program in various counties in Washington State. She offered that this program is now international in scope. Mary Jo talked about some of the various programs within the Master Gardeners. She spoke to some of the activities within our area. There were questions from the audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Norma Green, attending via Zoom, showed some of the items that were left-over from the Holiday Banquet in December.

-Nancy Leventon asked that members help to distribute the remaining handbooks to members with whom they have contact. The remaining three handbooks will be mailed.

-Betty Garrett gave a report of the recently completed very successful Book Sale. She encouraged all members to participate next year, and to take on some leadership roles. There is something for everyone to do! There will be a book sale wrap-up meeting Monday April 15.

-Jo Martens spoke about the Authors Evening. There will be a basket raffle. Interest groups are asked to prepare a basket. Marcy Anholt will be designing a poster. There will be an Authors Evening meeting at Jo's house on Monday, April 8, at 3:00 p.m. It will also be held via Zoom.

-The next program meeting topic will be on TransAlta and its future.

-Betty Garrett announced that books will be collected throughout the next year. Betty or Donna Loucks will be available to pick up books.

-Kathy Halsan and Cathy Cavness spoke briefly on the subject of new members.

-The Movers and Shakers will be meeting April 12 at 1:00 p.m. at The Station. They plan to be at the Earth Day celebration at Centralia College. The interest group received compliments regarding the Equal Pay Day table that they organized in March.

-Jan Leth reminded all of us to vote on the AAUW National Ballot that would be arriving via e-mail, and why this particular vote is very important.

-The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Leventon, Secretary

Lewis County AAUW General Business Meeting - April 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Laura Hewett at 7:03 pm. There were 18 members present via Zoom. A motion, made by Donna Loucks, seconded by Cathy Cavness, was passed to approve the minutes as digitally distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Donna Loucks, treasurer, presented the funds which are the same as last month with the exception of the bill for the directories and handbooks, which was \$385, and \$1000 which was sent to Tech Trek. Because of the amount of money received from the book sale, Donna purchased a 6-month \$15,000 CD to earn some interest, since the money won't be needed until fall. There is a difference of a little over \$2000 between what has been budgeted for the year and what has been spent. Chehalis Foundation has asked for an additional \$1000 to help with STEM camp. Due to questions, Donna stated that the foundation administers, but does not pay for the camp, that boy and girl students from all the county schools can attend, and the amount students are charged doesn't cover all the program's costs. After a suggestion to contribute the \$1000 to Tech Trek instead, Jeanne Nygard made a motion to give \$1000 each to Chehalis Stem Camp and to Tech Trek. The motion was seconded by Cathy Cavness and passed. Jeanne did mention that there were 105 directories and 115 handbooks printed and that only reimbursement for supplies, toner and paper was requested.

Book Sale: Donna reported on the meeting held on Monday for next year's book sale. There were about 18 members who will step up to help spread the workload. Marcy Anholt is looking for a larger location for sorting, with the church as a fallback option and is looking into purchasing a dozen aprons for members to wear during the sale to be visible to patrons. After suggestions such as wearing the same color or wearing head bobbars, the topic was tabled until the fall. Betty and Steve Garrett will continue to collect books and store in Mary Dahlstrom's garage until January. If other people collect books, they can get them to Betty or take them directly to Mary's.

Evening with Authors: Jo Martens has met with the Writer's Conference committee, who will include Evening with Authors on their posters as well as giving an option to purchase tickets for \$20 on their website. Jo is investigating the process for a liquor permit. She met with Tina with the College's Food Services, who indicated we can use community catering services or donated food, which is the plan. Tina said if there are no other events, we can get the table linens for free, although Donna Lalond, who is doing the decorations, said we could get plastic cloths that would do two tables for \$1.50 each. We can also get bistro tables, which are taller, which may be good for the wine bar. Jo spoke with Beth May who does music at the college who suggested that the Lewis County Music Teachers might have students who can play. Kathy Halsan has the tickets ready to go. Jo will print more flyers and place them at bookstores. Shakespeare Company and Book and Brush will sell tickets. Two committee heads are requesting volunteers, Natalie Vedder to assist with the basket raffle, and Donna Lalond with decorations. Marcy Anholt is creating an 11 by 17 poster. Printing prices were discussed including one from Minuteman Printing. Donna pointed out that expenses, similar to what was done for LunaFest, would be deducted before the profits are distributed to Hope Alliance.

Spring Survey: Renae Seegmiller reported that the spring survey has been sent for review to the Sunshine Team and will be sent to members within the week, with a follow-up planned for mid-May for those who do not respond. Questions were raised concerning the question regarding Educational Institutions.

Stillwaters Venue: Donna is still waiting to hear back from Matt regarding using Stillwaters for branch meetings.

Scholarship: Nancy Kruger discussed the recent scholarship application evaluation process for young women in the community. They received 31 applications, evaluated 28, and awarded seven scholarships of \$1,500 each, with five recipients from White Pass, Centralia, Mossyrock, WF West, and Napavine, and two already attending college, South Puget Sound and Central Washington University. Financial need was a deciding factor in the selection process. Nancy invited the scholarship recipients to the June potluck so the members can get to know them better. After some discussion, it was decided to have a ceremony at the beginning and let the scholarship recipients decide whether or not to stay for the potluck. Nancy also reported that one more person is needed for the scholarship committee to join Viki Draper and Wendy Tripp who have both agreed to be on the committee for next year.

Membership: Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan reported that there will be a new member get together at British Bites, date for which will be announced in the WAAG. All Members are invited to attend.

Officer vacancies: Kathy Halsan announced that Wendy Tripp and Kelly Stanley will fill the position of co-vice-presidents for programs, with Swede Svenson on the committee. Cathy Cavness announced that three members will share the work for the Secretary position. They are Carol Kostanich, Sharon Winningham, and Robin Warren. Jeanne announced that Viki Draper will serve as President-Elect. Donna pointed out that an announcement to the membership

should go out soon. The process as outlined in the by-laws was discussed and Laura will decide how to disseminate the information.

Movers and Shakers: Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan spoke about the upcoming event. They will work with Master Gardeners to celebrate Earth Day at Centralia College Washington Hall on Saturday from 8:30 to 2:30. Participants will be visiting the table between class sessions, which will feature a spinning trivia wheel with environmental questions. They urged members to join them that day. They also asked about the process for reimbursing members' out-of-pocket expenses at such events, with Donna clarifying the procedure and suggesting that we budget \$500 for outreach in the upcoming year.

The next branch meeting will be May 2 and the next general business meeting will be May 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Renae Seegmiller - Filling in for Nancy Leventon, Secretary

National AAUW Voting Dates – April 3 – May 15

AAUW members are currently voting on an amendment to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Members will also vote on the candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors. The proposed National bylaws changes are detailed on the [AAUW website at AAUW National Election 2024](#). Check your email from around April 3 for your ballot access. The email would have come from [AAUW <vote@simplyvoting.com>](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com)



BRANCH WEB PAGE and FACEBOOK

- ✚ Please check out our [BRANCH WEB page](#) for more information about our branch.



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- ✚ 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.



American Association of University Women, Lewis County
Community Organization · 204 like this

i Lewis County AAUW, a branch of the American Association of University Women, is a group of women with a college or university degree who support education for women.

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 2 – 7:00 pm.....	Branch Program
Monday, May 6 – 10:00 am.....	Java Break
Wednesday, May 8 – 9:00 am.....	Miles & Smiles
Thursday, May 9 – 8:30 am	Early Morning Discussion
Tuesday, May 14 – 1:00 pm	Cinema Chicks
Wednesday, May 15 – 7:00 pm	General Business Meeting
Wednesday, May 15	AAUW Member Election Voting Ends
Friday, May 17 – 2:00 pm.....	Pages and Beans
Saturday, May 18 – 1:00 pm.....	New Member Get Together
Monday, May 20 – 10:00 am.....	Java Break
Monday, May 20 – 6:30 pm	Movers & Shakers
Tuesday, May 21 – 7:00 pm	Ravenous Readers
Wednesday, May 22 – 9:00 am.....	Miles & Smiles
Saturday, May 25	Summer Newsletter Deadline
Monday, May 27 – 10:00 am	Art Group
Tuesday, May 28 – 7:00 pm	Travel 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
Book Sale:	Betty Garrett, Donna Loucks, & Renae Seegmiller
Expanding Your Horizons:	Corene Jones-Litteer & Swede Svenson
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