

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County

April 2025

BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Social time: 6:30 p.m.

Program begins: 7:00 p.m.

In Person

Fellowship Hall

Westminster Presbyterian Church

128 NW Prindle St, Chehalis.

The Hall is located in the lower level of

Westminster. As you approach the church from Prindle Street, not from the chapel's main doors on Market, you will see a set of double doors. The Fellowship

Hall is to the left as you enter those double doors.

Hostesses:

Nancy Levenson, Kristi Nelson,
Cheryl Vance

Online

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 7003 3864

Passcode: 515176



BRANCH PROGRAM

UNITED LEARNING CENTER

Speaker: Todd Chaput

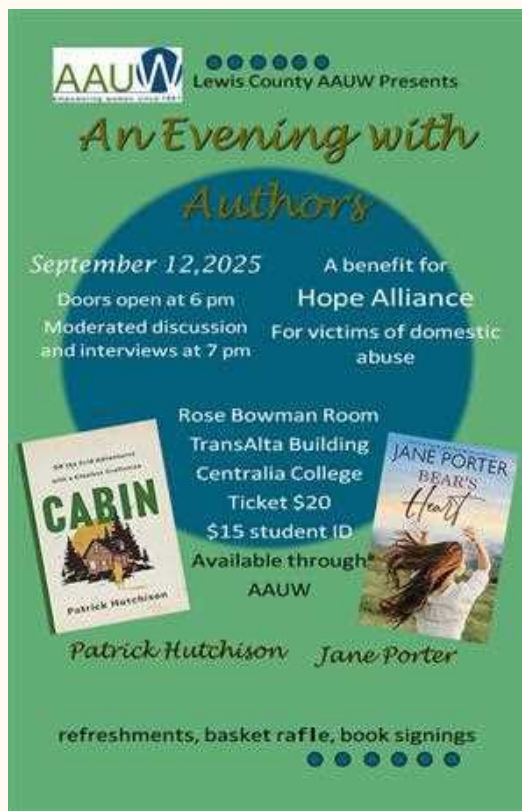
The Economic Alliance of Lewis County is a public-private partnership whose goal is to contribute to the economic vitality of the community by increasing the number of jobs and improving the local quality of life. Todd Chaput is the Infrastructure Initiatives Program Manager of Economic Alliance of Lewis County and the United Learning Center Project Manager. In Lewis County, only approximately 25% of children under five years of age have the opportunity to participate in a quality child care program; lack of child care centers playing a large part in this. Center numbers are on the decline, leaving families and children unable to access programs that promote child success. Todd will describe his role as Project Manager of the United Learning Center which will be comprised of a high-quality, affordable early learning program for working families, an after-school mentorship program and summer engagement opportunities through the Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County, and the Discover! Children's Museum, which will ignite the love of learning in children of all ages.



SPRING!

Laura Hewett, President

Spring is here and it's a time for renewal both in the natural world and in our daily lives--the perfect time to consider what we can do as individuals to be involved in our organization and perhaps take on a role that would be new to us. We all have comfort zones, different strengths, and levels of involvement that we are interested in. Sometimes we surprise ourselves by stepping up to join an interest group (a wonderful way to get to know other women and being involved in an activity that's fun) or be a committee chair without having experienced that before. This next year, we will have a new president, Viki Draper, who has served as President-Elect this year for Laura. Last October Corene Jones-Litteer and Swede Svenson headed up EYH and will continue as chairs for the 2025 EYH, with Adele Woodward and Barb Birney shadowing them and becoming the EYH Committee Chairs in 2026. We are fortunate to have a wealth of talented women involved in our branch and are richer when we can contribute our skills to making AAUW even better every year. Besides looking for a new President-Elect to replace Viki, our branch needs a secretary to help Sharon Winningham, someone to replace Sharon Lyons as chair for getting EYH speakers, and someone to work with Renae Seegmiller on the newsletter. Please give serious consideration to how you can help in the 2025-2026 year.



Evening with Authors Planning Meeting

Jo Martens, Chair

We have two writers committed to the Evening with Authors: Jane Porter and Patrick Hutchison. The Rose Bowman Room in the TransAlta Commons has been reserved for the evening of Friday, September 12, which is in the middle of the annual Southwest Writers Conference being held at Centralia College that weekend. We will meet at Jo Martens' house on Monday, April 14 at 3:00 p.m. to begin organizing our authors' event. We will need people to help with the basket raffle, refreshments, publicity, table decorations, both ticket and raffle ticket sales. Since much of the work will happen over the summer when we don't have branch meetings, it is very important to begin our planning now. A zoom connection will be set up for those who would like to attend virtually. That link will be sent out a few days before the planning meeting and will be in the WAAG. Please give Jo Martens a call or email her if you are interested, plan to attend the meeting, or have any questions.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Makensee Taliaferro

Makensee graduated from Napavine High School as the Valedictorian in 2022. She had done some Running Start enabling her to obtain her AA with highest honors from Centralia College in 2023. She then enrolled at Central Washington with plans to become a teacher after her graduation this spring. Makensee comes from a large family and in addition to her excellent academic record, has been involved in sports-both playing and coaching and with school leadership and activities. We wish this outstanding young woman all the very best in her future.



MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

We are welcoming Robin DeRoo to our branch. Please find Robin at our branch meetings, give her a call and invite her to an interest group with you.

Everyone is invited to our April 26 get together at Mint City. 1:00-2:00ish. Join us for coffee, tea, and a quick chat. We will discuss the upcoming AAUW events in the summer, and our great Evening with an Author event in September.

SHARING & CARING

Jo Martens

Centralia's mayor, Kelly Smith Johnstone paid tribute to our own Judy Bell on a Facebook post recently as part of her effort to publicly celebrate people who have made a difference to the city. Well earned praise for the work and commitment Judy has done and continues to do. We all benefit from her vision and service to our community.

The derivation of the Latin Aprilis is not clear, but some historians believe it come from aperire (to open) or apricus (sunny) which would refer to the longer days of April and the new growth that appears everywhere. It's the perfect time to celebrate the anniversary of new life. We hope these ladies will enjoy their birthdays with the sun and flowers of April.

Jan Nontell 4/6 Donna LaLond 4/21 Ann Tuning 4/25 Adele Woodward 4/25

We extend our condolences to Robin Warren who lost her mother-in-law on March 19. Even when expected, the loss of a parent still leaves a huge hole in our lives.

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

General Business Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, April 16
7:00 p.m.

The General Business Meeting allows time for discussion of branch events and future plans. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Send suggested agenda items to Laura Hewett by April 12.



I want to start celebrating all the wonderful people making a difference right here in Centralia. Today it is Judy Bell.

Judy is a long-term member of our community who is devoted to Seminary Hill. She and the [Friends of the Seminary Hill Natural Area](#) are working to maintain and transform our natural area. Folks, we have an urban forest right here in town, walking distance from downtown. What a gem!

Judy has helped preserve this forest and provides steady and inspirational leadership. She's a constant advocate and champion for this natural treasure. Did you know that over 500 trees were planted there in the last month? That they've built an accessible trail? That they've improved the trails so they last longer and are less muddy? That they're doing ecological restoration and do ivy pulls every Thursday?

Like our founder, George Washington, Judy gives generously to Centralia. And her smile brightens every room she's in. Thank you, Judy, for representing the best of who we can be and thank you to all the volunteers for Seminary Hill.

NATIONAL AAUW

What's happening: The AAUW Board approved a modest dues adjustment — \$2 per year over the next two years. New **national dues: \$74 starting April 1, 2025, and \$76 starting April 1, 2026.**

Why it matters: Member dues are an important funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, dues have not kept pace. During the feedback process, we heard from more than 750 members. The Board's decision to increase dues by \$2 reflects an adjustment to the original proposal to lessen the burden of a dues increase on members while keeping pace with inflation.

WASHINGTON STATE AAUW VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come join us as we gather together for our AAUW-WA Annual Meeting. We will be hearing from Emily Hitchens, our state president, on the "state of the state." Our state treasurer, Susie Johnson, will give our annual finance report. We also will be electing new officers, approving Bylaws changes, reviewing our state Public Policy Priorities and listening to an uplifting talk on Moving Forward Together in Difficult Times. There will be breakout rooms so we can continue the conversations. [Free Registration.](#)

INTEREST GROUPS

Early Morning Discussion Norma Green



EMD meets again by Zoom - 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 10th 2025.

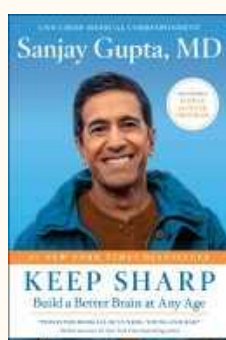
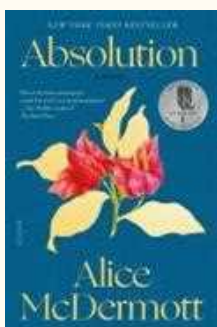
Rock and Roll music is our topic for this month's presentations and discussions about MUSIC, our overall topic for this year. From the mid-1950s to the late 60s, Rock & Roll was the dominant genre of music for young and energetic people. We will cover a few of the many R&R performers and songs, the first memorable one being Rock Around the Clock, performed by Bill Haley and the Comets, released in 1954. Elvis Presley with That's All Right and many more of his songs followed. In the mid-60s the Beatles, Rolling Stones, The Kinks, and the Who were popular. Then the late 1960s when R&R was no longer as exciting, the Counterculture Movement, 1966-1969, brought newer artists who experimented with manipulating the R&R sound. Several EMD members will do research on Rock & Roll Music to provide a PowerPoint presentation to share and discuss with the group. Downloaded music will be added to illustrate the musicality and beat of Rock and Roll. All AAUW members are welcome to join us. To be on EMD's email list, contact Chair Norma Green.

Ravenous Readers Nancy Leventon



The Ravenous Readers will be meeting on Tuesday, April 15, at the home of Wendy Tripp. Please notice that this is a change in location from previously published. Jo Martens will be leading the discussion of *Absolution* by Alice McDermott. Arrive anytime after 6:30, with discussion beginning at 7 pm. About the Book: In Saigon in 1963, two young American wives form a wary alliance. Tricia is a starry-eyed newlywed, married to a rising oil engineer "on loan" to US Navy Intelligence. Charlene is a practiced corporate spouse and mother of three, a talented hostess and determined altruist, on a mission to relieve the "wretchedness" she sees all around her.

Planning Ahead: The May book will be *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.



Pages and Beans Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet April 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library to discuss *Keep Sharp; Build a Better Brain at Any Age* by Sanjay Gupta. Swede Svenson will lead the discussion. This will be a hybrid meeting. If you wish to attend by Zoom, please contact Renae Seegmiller. The book debunks common myths about aging and cognitive decline. Dr. Gupta also addresses brain disease, particularly Alzheimer's, answers all your questions about the signs and symptoms, and shows how to ward against it and stay healthy. He likewise provides readers with a personalized twelve-week program featuring practical strategies to strengthen your brain every day.

Looking Ahead: We will discuss *The Pearl that Broke Its Shell* by Nadia Hashimi. In Kabul in 2007, Rahima and her sisters can rarely leave the house because they have no brothers. The ancient custom of bacha posh allows young Rahima to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age. A century earlier, her great-aunt Shekiba, saved herself and built a new life the same way. These two women separated by a century who share similar destinies make a very interesting story.





Miles and Smiles

Laura Hewett

Now that spring is approaching, we are looking forward to new blossoms and warmer weather for our walks. April 9 will take us to Lake Sacajawea in Longview, a nice walk around the beautiful lake in addition to side trails for checking out Japanese, azalea and rhododendron gardens. On our second walk in April on the 23rd, we will travel north to Lake Sylvia near Montesano, which is a delightful, somewhat hilly trail in a beautiful forest. Some upcoming hikes:

May 14: Nisqually Wildlife Refuge

May 28: Seminary Hill

June 11: Squaxin--Ellis Cove Trail

June 25: Lewis & Clark State Park

July 9: Watershed Park

July 23: Mllersylvania State park

Please join us when you can. Let Laura know if you would like to be included on the group email.

Cinema Chicks

Nancy Kruger

Cinema Chicks will meet at 1:00 on Tuesday, April 8, to view and discuss the film, Emilia Perez. This 2024 Spanish-language French musical-crime film follows a Mexican cartel leader who aims to disappear and become his true self by transitioning into a woman. He seeks the help of a disillusioned lawyer to help him achieve this goal. This film earned 13 nominations at the 2025 Academy Awards and won two – Best Supporting Actress (Zoe Saldana) and Best Original Song (“El Mal”). Kathy Tennyson will lead the discussion of the film which is available for streaming thru Netflix. Check the WAAG for location of the meeting. All are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Nancy Kruger.



Travel Group

Donna Loucks

Travel Group will meet Tuesday, April 22 at the home of Jan Snider. 6:45 social, 7:00 program. The meeting will also be Zoomed. Jan will share photos from their recent trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. Please RSVP to Donna if you plan to attend in-person or on Zoom. Everyone is welcome!

Movers and Shakers

Join us on Monday, April 28, 6:00-7:00, for our branch public policy, Movers and Shakers meeting. We will discuss the bills in our state legislature supported by AAUW. Our state legislative session is scheduled to end Sunday, April 27.

We need two or more members to attend the Timberland Regional Library board meeting online April 16. Please contact Kathy Tennyson, Kathy Halsan, or Cathy Cavness for further information.

Kathy Halsan, Cathy Cavness, Kathy Tennyson, Monique Farland, Interest group planners



“The Israel-Palestinian Conflict”

A Presentation by Dr. Jeffrey S. Morton,
Fellow of The Foreign Policy Association

Sunday, April 13, 1 to 2 p.m.

Free on Zoom! Registration and more
on the AAUW-WA website.

 aauw-wa.aauw.net



GREAT DECISIONS GUEST ZOOM SPEAKER

Everyone is welcome to participate in this opportunity to learn more about the Israel Palestinian Conflict with an expert of the Foreign Policy Association. Zoom seating is limited, but contact Jeanne Nygard if you would like to participate with her and others together. More information and registration at AAUW-WA website.

Hope Housing Collaborative of Lewis County

Sharon Miracle

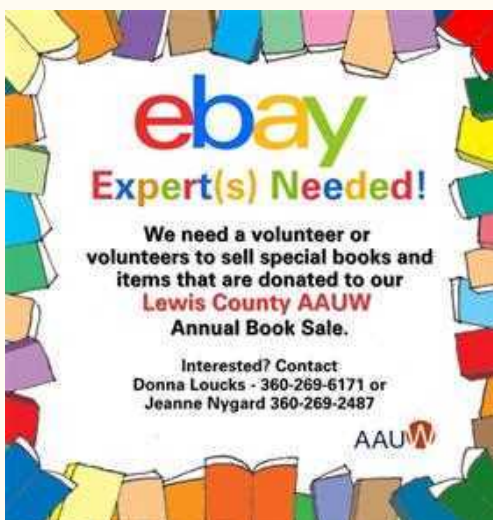
Hope Housing Collaborative would like to thank the Lewis County branch of AAUW for inviting us to your March meeting. Kelly Stanley, thanks for your great introduction to our speaker, Mark McHugh. He loved seeing so many “connected” people from his past. That’s what’s great about our community, all of the people and organizations who join forces to work together. AAUW is certainly an active part of that! I’ve been a member for less than a year, and I am constantly in awe of this organization and the work that is done for the betterment of our community. I was asked to more fully answer the question: How can we help Hope Housing? I would love to let you know! First, if you are on Facebook, please search out the page for Hope Housing Collaborative of Lewis County and become a follower. Then, please share with your Facebook friends! While you are on Facebook, you can read the awesome article that Julie McDonald wrote for the Chronicle. Thank you, Julie! Check Facebook every once in a while. There will be opportunities posted there to help. (cleaning the construction site, planting shrubs, painting, donating household articles etc.) You can also become a financial supporter. If you would like to make a gift toward the building budget, send a check to Hope Housing Collaborative of Lewis County at PO Box 881; Centralia, WA 98531. Additionally, we will need supporters who would be willing to give monthly toward our operating costs. Starting now, we are actively looking for 200 community members who would be able to give \$25 a month. On the Hope Housing website (hopehousinglc.com) you will find a donation page through PayPal. It is very easy to sign up to make an automatic monthly gift. (You can use the website donation page to make a one-time gift also.) Hope Housing will be very thankful for any support! Before closing, I would like to thank the many AAUW members who have already supported Hope Housing. I won’t name names (because I haven’t asked permission) but there are numerous members who have already made significant donations. Thank you so much!



BRANCH WEB PAGE and FACEBOOK

Please check out our BRANCH WEBSITE for more information about our branch. On the MEMBERS ONLY page (password is in the directory) you can find past newsletters, videos of many past programs, the newly formatted handbook, recipes and other interesting resources. Contact Donna Loucks with questions or suggestions.

Be sure to follow and share our Facebook page and our Instagram page. Contact Peggy Hammer with information for social media postings.



AAUW Program Meeting Minutes - March 6, 2025

President Laura Hewitt opened the meeting at 7:05 pm. She read the Mission Statement. She then introduced our guests: Robin Tuntland, Diane Jewell, Cynthia Waddell, Emily Gutherie and Deanna Page.

A letter from “Hope Alliance” was read requesting money and/or gift cards for a special needs situation. The donation box was in place during the meeting.

Donna Louck announced that book sale posters were available with sign-up sheets showing where the posters would be placed. Jeanne Nygard passed the shift sign-up sheet. She asked if someone would be interested in posting an Ebay message advertising any really special books that could be sold. A sign-up sheet for those willing to help with the book alphabetizing was passed around.

Kelly Stanley introduced the evening’s speaker, Reverend Mark McHugh, pastor of Harrison Square Presbyterian Church. Mark grew up in Centralia. His family has long been associated with this church. Mark is president of the “Hope Alliance Collaborative of Lewis County”. This is a faith based group now working on two plans to aid the homeless population of Lewis County. This first plan is now underway to build transitional housing on land that adjoins the Harrison Square Presbyterian Church, located on Fords Prairie. Mark gave background about the need for such housing which is not now available in Lewis County. This project is modeled on housing existing in Olympia. The new housing is called “Shalom Village”. Construction has started with students from Centralia High School’s construction class helping. There will be six double units, two bathrooms, a community room with a kitchen, and two offices. Residents will be carefully screened and women with children will be assisted first. The second project is called “Safe Parking”. That will be to have designated overnight parking for women (and children). Mark shared that funding for all of this is not dependent on federal funds. Donations are welcome. There will be a fundraising event on March 24th at the “Juice Box” in Centralia with BINGO and a silent auction.

There will be a coffee gathering sometime in April. The specific date has not been chosen.

Laura thanked tonight’s hostesses: Wendy Tripp, Kelly Stanley, and Viki Draper.

The next program meeting will be on April 3rd, and the business meeting will be April 16th.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Winningham, Secretary

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 3 – 7:00 pmBranch Program Meeting
Monday, April 7 – 10:00 am Java Break
Tuesday, April 8 – 1:00 pm Cinema Chicks
Wednesday, April 9 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Thursday, April 10 – 8:30 am Early Morning Discussion
Sunday, April 13 – 1:00 pm Great Decisions
Monday, April 14 – 3:00 pm Evening with Authors
Tuesday, April 14 – 7:00 pm Ravenous Readers
Wednesday, April 16 – 7:00 pm General Business
Friday, April 18 – 2:00 pm Pages and Beans
Saturday, April 19Newsletter Deadline
Monday, April 21 – 10:00 am Java Break
Tuesday, April 22 – 7:00 pmTravel Group
Wednesday, April 22 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Saturday, April 26 – 10:00 am State Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 26 – 1:00 pm Member Get Together
Monday, April 28 – 6:30 pmMovers & Shakers

OFFICERS 2024-2025

President	Laura Hewett
President Elect	Viki Draper
Program Vice-Presidents:	Kelley Stanley & Wendy Tripp
Program Committee:	Cathy Cavness, Marilyn Chintella, Norma Green, Jo Martens
Membership Vice-Presidents:	Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan
Secretary:	Sharon Winningham
Treasurer:	Donna Loucks
Historian:	Judy Scheer
Book Sale:	Donna Loucks
Expanding Your Horizons:	Corene Jones-Litteer & Swede Svenson
Scholarship Board of Directors:	Nancy Kruger, President Viki Draper, Mary Ann Gowing, Carol Kostanich, Wendy Tripp, Robin Warren, Adele Woodward
Directory Editors:	Nancy Leventon & Jeanne Nygard
Communication Editors:	Renae Seegmiller & Laura Hewett
Hostess Coordinator:	Mary Dahlstrom
Sunshine Chair:	Jo Martens