

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County

May 2025

MAY BRANCH PROGRAM CRIMINAL LAW and DEFENSE

Speaker: Rachel Hunt, J.D, M.P.A, Attorney at Law

Rachel Hunt is a local attorney, specializing in Criminal Defense. She has lived in the Lewis County area for the majority of her life. After graduating from W.F. West High School, she attended Centralia College and Boise State University where she earned a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice. Following graduation, she returned to Lewis County where she was an assistant to the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners. Rachel then returned to Boise in 2019 to attend the University of Idaho where she simultaneously earned her Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Administration.

Rachel Hunt has a deep commitment to people who find themselves in conflict with the law and will provide us an overview of criminal defense, including why she chose that area of law. She will also explain the many benefits of using a local attorney. Additionally, Rachel will provide information on the newly created Chehalis Municipal Treatment Court, an exciting new project in the criminal justice court system.

Join us on May 1 to listen to Rachel Hunt, and learn about criminal law. Questions will be welcome.



BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, May 1, 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 Kruger, Donna Loucks, Kathy Tennyson

Online

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 7003 3864

Passcode: 515176

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP

Nancy Kruger

The Women Supporting Women Scholarships Committee met in March and chose nine recipients for our 2025-2026 academic year scholarships. These young women have either graduated from a Lewis County or Rochester High School or have lived in those areas for at least two years before enrolling in higher education. Each of the recipients will be awarded a \$2000 tuition scholarship to the accredited college/university/trade school of her choice. The scholarships are named and given in memory or in honor of a branch member or supporter of AAUW and its mission. This year's recipients and honorees are as follows:

Taylor Babb - Kate Gregg Memorial Scholarship
Amanda Bennett – Sandy Godsey Memorial Scholarship
Allie Anderson – Gerald Vandebroe Memorial Scholarship
Kendra Dimaggio – Corene Jones-Litteer Tribute Scholarship
Emmalee Squib-Bates – Judy Bell Tribute Scholarship
Emma Stewart – Sharon Winningham Tribute Scholarship
Madelynn Piepgras – Jan Snider Tribute Scholarship
Edith Stratis – Karen McInturff Tribute Scholarship
Maya Hankins – Sharon Lyons Tribute Scholarship

A special thanks to all branch members and supporters of the annual used book sale as proceeds which are donated from it are the main source of funds awarded as scholarships each year.



2025 Expanding Your Horizons Save the Date!

Our annual book sale was a resounding success and planning for an Evening with Authors is underway. That means the planning for Expanding Your Horizons is also starting. This is our 30th year for Expanding Your Horizons!!

Save the date – October 18, 2025 – for a morning of STEAM sessions for young women in 6th – 9th grades in Lewis County and points north. This half-day conference is a very busy day bubbling with energy and excitement for everyone interested in science, technology, engineering, art and math. The workshops are led by professional women in a variety of careers. Through the work and planning by a host of Lewis County AAUW members, many attendees will get the spark that drives their future. This exciting morning has the potential to change lives...and has!

Co-chairs Corene Jones-Litteer and Swede Svenson are joined this year by Adele Woodward and Barbara Birney, co-chairs in training for EYH in 2026 and 2027. It takes several committees to make it all happen and we need your help. First, we are looking for someone to shadow Sharon Lyons, as chair of the Program Committee, as she leads her team in recruiting and securing the professionals for each session. Also, Renae Seegmiller is going to focus on Registration this year and we need someone to organize volunteers for the different presentation sessions. There are many more other volunteer opportunities; please be ready to help when asked. Finally, put on your thinking cap for ways to make this 30th year special for all the young women, parents, chaperones, and AAUW volunteers in attendance.

MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

We are welcoming the following three new members.

Jerry Ferguson

Laura Schilling

Marina DeMerritt

Please find them at our branch meetings, give them a call and invite them to an interest group with you!



Duos are Duo

We begin our annual membership renewal in May. National dues have risen by two dollars, hence, our total dues required will be \$94.00. You may pay your dues via credit or debit card, check, or cash at the May 1 meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting please mail your check, along with the renewal from found on the last page of this newsletter, to AAUW Lewis County, PO Box 244, Chehalis, WA 98532. Questions? Contact Donna Loucks, treasurer, or Cathy Cavness, Kathy Halsan, membership co-chairs.

Watch the WAAG for our next All Member Get Together date in May!

SHARING & CARING

Jo Martens

According to both history and tradition, the Romans were the first to call the month May after Maia, their goddess of growth and increase, whose name in turn derives from the Latin word maior meaning bigger. Here in Western Washington, we certainly see that in evidence every day as the blackberries grow a foot a day and everything that can, blooms. We wish bouquets of blooms for our friends with May birthdays:

Barbara Charest 5/2
Marina DeMeritt 5/6
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



On a more somber note, Ella Hammond had a very bad fall and broke her femur. As she can't put weight on it yet, she would appreciate visits and cards. Kathy Halsan had a hip replacement on April 17, and hopefully will be back among us soon, walking without pain.



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

INTEREST GROUPS

Early Morning Discussion

Norma Green

EMD will meet on Thursday, May 8th, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom to complete our year of discussing MUSIC. We covered seven genres of music, as well as how Music affects our minds, plants, and animals. Now, members will each describe her favorite Music genre and performer and, if possible, provide an audio excerpt of her favorite performer's music.

All AAUW members are welcome to attend. This should be an interesting and entertaining discussion.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Due to our state legislative session ending Sunday, April 27, we will plan our debriefing session following the end of the session. We look forward to the legislative report from our AAUW state lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro, and sharing the update at our next Movers and Shakers meeting. Watch the WAAG for the May meeting date.

Two or more members are needed to attend the Timberland Regional Library board meeting online May 21. Please contact Kathy Tennyson, Kathy Halsan, or Cathy Cavness for further information.

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

Ravenous Readers

Nancy Leventon



The Ravenous Readers will be meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at the home of Renae Seegmiller. Wendy Tripp will be leading the discussion of *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. You can arrive at Renae's after 6:30. Discussion will begin at 7 pm. Please let Renae know if you will be attending this meeting, either in person or by Zoom. About the novel: In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.

The Ravenous Readers group will be working on nominations for the reading list for the next membership year. If you would like to participate in this process and haven't done it before, please contact Nancy Leventon for the particulars.

Pages and Beans

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet on May 16, 2025 at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library at 2:00 p.m. in the small meeting room. Cathy Cavness will lead the discussion of *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. This is a hybrid meeting. Please let Renae Seegmiller know if you will be attending via Zoom.

June is our book selection month. Corene will send instructions for nominating books to read next year. We will discuss the books and vote at the June meeting. Start thinking about your choices now!

INTEREST GROUPS



Miles and Smiles

Laura Hewett

We had wonderful walks in April 9 at Lake Sacajawea in Longview and at Lake Sylvia near Montesano, observing signs of spring sprouting up along the path. May 14 will take us to Nisqually Wildlife Refuge in Thurston County; this is a great walk for encountering many types of birds and other wildlife, especially when the tide is out. One change to April's Newsletter hikes from May through July is May 28; on this day we will visit Frye Cove near Olympia and begin our walk at Kelly Stanley's cabin nearby. Be sure to change this destination on your calendars. We look forward to meeting new members who are joining Miles & Smiles and all who would like to be a part of this group. Contact Laura Hewett with any questions.

May 14 - Nisqually

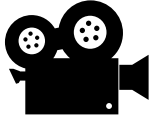
May 28 - Frye Cove

June 11 - Squaxin - Ellis Cove Trail

June 25 - Lewis & Clark State Park

July 9 - Watershed Park

July 23 - Millersylvania State Park



Cinema Chicks

Nancy Kruger

Cinema Chicks will meet on Tuesday, May 13, to view and discuss the film, *The Brutalist*. This 2024 epic period drama stars Adrien Brody as a Hungarian-Jewish architect and a survivor of the Holocaust who immigrates to the U.S. The film follows his struggles to achieve the American dream after fleeing post-war Europe, with a wealthy client changing his life. It received 10 Academy Award nominations, winning Best Cinematography, Best Original Score and Best Actor for Brody. At the Golden Globe Awards, it was voted Best Motion Picture for drama. Since it runs over 3 hours in length, we are starting the meeting at noon instead of our usual time. Location of the meeting will be announced in an upcoming WAAG. Contact Nancy Kruger for questions or to be added to the Cinema Chicks email list.

Travel Group

Donna Loucks

It has not yet been decided whether Travel Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27. Watch the WAAG for an announcement. If you aren't on the email list for Travel Group and want to be notified of last minute details, please ask Donna Loucks to add you.

Lewis County Branch American Association of University Women Minutes of the April 3, 2025, Meeting

The Lewis County Branch of AAUW met on Thursday, April 3, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church. President Laura Hewett greeted members and one guest, Sandra Nalls. Jerry Ferguson was introduced as our newest member. President Laura read the Mission Statement of AAUW. A sign-up sheet for 2025-26 Hostess Assignments was passed around.

Marilynn Chintella introduced our guest speaker, Todd Chaput. Mr. Chaput described his role as Project Manager of the United Learning Center which is currently under construction. When finished it will house the Boys and Girls Club of Lewis County, the Discover! Children's Museum, an affordable early learning program for working families, an after-school mentorship program and summer engagement opportunities.

Laura expressed a thank you to everyone who worked on our very successful Book Sale. Special recognition was given to Donna Loucks who has given many hours of guided assistance towards the sale for many years. She was given a card from the members present and a plaque commemorating her service. Donna announced that after all the finances had been determined, the total amount of the sale came to around \$25,000, which is the highest amount ever.

Cathy Cavness and Kathy Halsan distributed branch brochures, announced the new membership for Jerry Ferguson, and mentioned that two more women had joined during the book sale. That information will be coming later. The new member coffee will be held at Mint City on Saturday April 26.

Laura announced that the next branch business meeting will be held on April 16. That will be a Zoom meeting. The next Branch meeting will be on May 1.

Donna Loucks brought up the fact that a slate of officers for the 2025-26 membership year has not been established. It should have been done in advance of the April meeting. That will be discussed at the April 16 business meeting.

The hostess committee for the April meeting was thanked. Those people are Nancy Leventon, Kristi Nelson, and Cheryl Vance. An Easter themed table was featured.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Leventon, Substitute Secretary

Lewis County Branch AAUW Business Meeting
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

The meeting was opened at 7 pm by President Laura Hewett.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March Business meeting were approved as digitally distributed.

TREASURY: Donna Loucks reported that we have \$43,570.32 in the treasury. Of that \$23,525 is from the book sale. We gave \$10,000 in scholarships this year. A lengthy discussion followed that focused on the amount of money and if we were going to donate to the W.F. West's Stem program and Tech Trek. It was decided that since it was too late to get involved with Tech Trek this year, we would send \$5,000 to the Stem program. Donna said that she has put some money into a 6 month C.D.

ELECTIONS: The nominated officers for the 2025-26 year are: President-Viki Draper; Membership VPs-Cathy Caveness and Kathy Halsen; Program VPs-Wendy Tripp and Kelly Stanley, Treasurer-Donna Loucks. The role of secretary has not been filled yet. Elections will take place at the May Program Meeting.

BOOK SALE: Donna reported that we made approximately \$23,500. That is a record for this project. There is a plan to address the problem of a slope in the doorway of the Moose Hall. The date for next year's sale is set for the last weekend of March.

AUTHOR'S NIGHT: Jo Marten announced that each of last year's committee chairs have agreed to continue in position for this. Two authors have been chosen to appear, and Doris Wood will be the moderator. Members will be asked to create questions for Doris to use. Posters will be ready to post sometime in July. Tickets will be distributed to members at the May Program meeting. Jan Leth and Sharon Lyons asked that members give her suggestions of restaurants in the Chehalis area to which they might approach for appetizers for the evening.

MISCELLANEOUS: Jo Martens mentioned that some glitches can't be avoided with the Zooming of Program Meetings. The gentleman from the church has been very helpful with trying to improve the Zooming.

Cathy Caveness advised members to not advertise AAUW on any signs carried at a political rally. It is all right to mention that you are a member of AAUW however.

Membership fees are \$94.00 for next year. A credit card may be used and fees can be paid at the May Program Meeting.

Three members are on the Sunshine list at this time: Kathy Halsan, Mary Metzger and Ella Hammond.

It was announced that our district's House of Representative member, Marie Gluzencamp-Perez will be appearing at Centralia College at 5 pm on April 22, 2025 at 5 pm.

A planning meeting for EYH is scheduled for tomorrow. Sharon Lyons is going to retire from her long time position of lining up speakers each year. She would like someone to volunteer to shadow her this year and then take over that position next year.

The June Program Meeting will be held at Alexander Park with a back up plan to move to St. John's Lutheran Church if the weather does not cooperate. Our scholarship winners for this year will be invited to come with a guest. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Laura thanked everyone for their help this year.

The meeting was closed at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Winningham, Secretary

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 1 – 7:00 pmBranch Program Meeting
Monday, May 5 – 10:00 am Java Break
Thursday, May 8 – 8:30 am Early Morning Discussion
Tuesday, May 13 – 1:00 pm Cinema Chicks
Wednesday, May 14 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Friday, May 16 – 2:00 pm Pages and Beans
Monday, May 19 – 10:00 am Java Break
Tuesday, May 20 – 7:00 pm Ravenous Readers
Saturday, May 24June Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, May 27 – 7:00 pmTravel Group
Wednesday, May 28 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
September 12 Evening with Authors
October 18Expanding Your Horizons

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

LEWIS COUNTY BRANCH AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please attach your check, made payable to Lewis County AAUW, for the appropriate amount for your membership category, and mail with this form to Lewis County AAUW, c/o Donna Loucks, P.O. Box 244, Chehalis, WA 98532.

Name: _____

Any changes in your contact information in the directory?

Dues Options:

- _____ \$94.00 Regular Branch Member (branch \$10; state \$10; national \$74)
- _____ \$1480.00 New Lifetime Member
- _____ \$20.00 Renewing Lifetime Member (branch and state dues only)
- _____ \$10.00 or \$20.00 Dual Branch Member (branch dues only—main branch, state, and national dues paid through another branch; \$20 if main branch is outside Washington)
- _____ \$10.00 Friend of Lewis County Branch AAUW (non-degree holder)
- _____ \$18.81 Student Member (non-degree holder; currently working toward a degree)
- \$00.00 Honorary Member

WOULD YOU PREFER TO PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD?

You can join or renew online at the national web site <https://www.aauw.org/> but the “new and improved” website is not user-friendly. An easier way is to [use this link to make your payment](#) and the branch treasurer will update the national database. PLEASE NOTE: We are using a payment system called Zeffy which allows non-profit organizations to accept credit card payments without a service charge being deducted from the payment. They support this by asking for a separate donation. You are under no obligation to make a donation to Zeffy, but you must click the drop down arrow below the transaction total and choose “Other”, then put 0 or a modest amount in the box before the transaction can be completed.

Questions?

Call Kathy Halsan at 360-556-9110 or e-mail her at kathyhalsanhalsan@gmail.com or Cathy Cavness at 360-520-2859.