

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County

September 2025

BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, September 4, 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:

Robin DeRoo, Maree Lerchen,
Muriel Tosh

Online

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 7003 3864

Passcode: 515176

BRANCH PROGRAM

THE INTRIGUE OF GENEALOGY

Speaker: Kerry MacGregor Seal

Kerry MacGregor Seal is a 4th generation Washingtonian. Her family moved to WA in the 1890's. Her great-grandfather's contributions to Seattle—designing, building, and operating the Pike Place Market—led to her early interest in WA State history and genealogy. She enjoys the genealogical treasure hunt through history especially finding historical facts that flesh out these stories. Her historical writing includes an article on the 1926 Rose Bowl. She also co-authored the biography of Centralia's George Washington in 2017.

Kerry has not always researched history. After earning a degree in Environmental Health at the U. of WA, she worked as an environmental toxicologist for a consulting firm and as an epidemiologist for the Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept.

She has been a member of Lewis County American Association of University Women since 2006 and was president 2016 - 2019.



EVENING WITH AUTHORS

Our evening event is coming soon, on Friday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the TransAlta Commons on the Centralia College campus. Patrick Hutchison, a writer whose first book became a best seller, will share the stage with Jane Porter, a very experienced writer with over 40 books to her name. Doris Wood-Brumsickle will moderate their conversation and ask questions, some generated by our members.

Patrick Hutchison grew up in Chehalis and graduated from W.F. West H.S. *Cabin* is a thoughtful and sometimes philosophical memoir of his time refurbishing the 10 X 12 cabin near Index that he purchased on a whim. Jane Porter is a very experienced writer, having written over 40 best-selling romance novels, many dealing with important social issues. Doris Wood-Brumsickle taught English for many years at Centralia College, and after her retirement was appointed to the College Board of Directors. This is sure to be an interesting and entertaining conversation. From 6 to 7 p.m. tickets will be sold for a raffle of baskets donated by our many interest groups as well as community members. Hors d'oeuvres trays have been donated by several Chehalis restaurants. Soft drinks will be available donated by our very generous members. Book n Brush will also be present to sell books by many local writers who will be available to sign their books.

If you haven't already signed up to help or purchase tickets, it is not too late. Information of what volunteers are still needed can be found in the August 30 WAAG. The \$20 tickets can be purchased and donations made through our [website](#) or at the door. Proceeds go to Hope Alliance.



2025-2026 DIRECTORY LEWIS COUNTY AAUW

Our new **2025 to 2026 Directories** will be handed out at the September Branch Meeting. The cover artwork on the new directories is exceptional! Contact Nancy Leventon if you are unable to be at the meeting. Many thanks to Jeanne Nygard and Nancy for all their hard work on the directory.

Book Sale: Remember that we collect books all year long, so if you know people who have books to donate, please contact Betty Garrett, or give her phone number to them.

Our 30th Year!! Expanding Your Horizons



Expanding Your Horizons is a half-day conference at Centralia College for students in 6th through 9th grades from schools in Lewis County and south Thurston County. Scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025 this is the 30th year Lewis County AAUW and the Centralia College TRIO/TS program have offered a program of hands-on workshops presented by women in STEAM-related (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) fields.

After registration starting at 7:45, the students attend the opening assembly with an interactive presentation from Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). The students then attend two sessions where they participate in hands-on experiences in workshops of their choice.

A session for parents is included in the conference this year where they learn more about the college experience, education funding, trade schools, the Running Start program and more. A tour of the college campus is also included.

In 2024, 186 students attended EYH and we look forward to many repeat attendees. EYH brochures with registration forms will be available in middle and high schools, libraries and at Centralia College. Students are assigned to two workshops after choosing five from 22 different workshops. The registration fee is \$10 per student and includes all materials and snacks. Scholarships are available to students who would otherwise not be able to attend. October 8 is the deadline for registration.

Our volunteers encourage students to attend by making presentations in schools in September when the brochures are distributed. AAUW members assist with funding for bus transportation for the students and scholarships. This year, the TRIO program federal grant was not renewed due to policy decisions regarding the federal Department of Education, and will end on August 31. Because of this lost funding, AAUW will need to backfill with additional funding and volunteers. It was also necessary to include middle school boys in our recruitment for the workshop to continue working with the college. Brochures and publicity are being redone to reflect this change.

Expanding Your Horizons

Continued from previous page.

Corene Jones-Litteer and Swede Svenson are co-chairs of EYH. They need your help!! To produce an event this size, it takes our whole membership to pitch in and help both ahead of time and the morning of October 18. At our September 4th meeting there will be sign-up sheets available for you to volunteer for one of the committees working on EYH.

The committee, their chairpersons and function are as follows:

- Student Transportation – Adele Woodward – 1 volunteer to work with Adele in early September to arrange buses and chaperones.
- School presentations – Cathy Cavness and Laura Hewett will take care of Centralia elementary schools. We need 4 volunteers to contact rural Non-Trio rural schools and coordinate with the Student Transportation Chair, Adele Woodward. Non-TRIO rural schools are: Adna, Morton, White Pass.
- Registration – Renae Seegmiller – 10 volunteers arrive early to welcome and give girls their packet in the TAC foyer.
- Session Monitors – Barbara Birney – 24 volunteers are assigned to workshops to attend, help the presenter, and evaluate the presentations.
- Parent Session – Jeanne Nygard and Cathy Cavness – 2 volunteers to help set up refreshments for the parents and help with the workshops.
- Hospitality – Kristi Nelson and Sharon Wunningham – 2 volunteers to help set up refreshments for presenters.
- Student Snacks – M.J. Marsh and Cathy Cavness – 6 volunteers to help set up and serve snacks to the girls in between their two workshop sessions.
- Table Decorations – Donna LaLond – 4 volunteers to help assemble table centerpieces, take them to the college on Friday before conference, and arrange them in the Atrium.
- Presenter Luncheon – Laura Hewett and Carol Kostanich – 4 volunteers to set up the luncheon honoring the presenters after the conference.
- Clean-up – Everyone and anyone – Of course, we need to help clean up the area and haul leftover items to cars.



Welcome

MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

Welcome to our new member, Doris Wood. Please introduce yourself to Doris at the next branch meeting, or small group! Watch for Doris, who will be serving as moderator at our upcoming Evening with Authors at Centralia College on September 12.

All members are invited to drop by Dawn's Delectables, 204 North Tower Avenue, Centralia, for coffee and a quick get together on Saturday, September 20, from 1:00- 2ish. We would love to hear about your summer! Did you grow a garden, read any good books, or travel? Looking forward to seeing you!



SHARING & CARING

Jo Martens

The name "September" comes from the Latin word "septem", which means "seven" as it was originally the seventh month in the old Julian calendar. The Gregorian calendar added 2 months, making it the ninth month, but despite efforts by the Roman Senate to change the names, common people continued to use the old ones, a tradition we continue today. Also during September, the sun crosses the equator, marking the Equinox, and we transition to fall. Members who celebrate late summer birthdays this year are:



Judy Bell 9/12
Heather Beaird 9/13
Alicia Spalding 9/14
Muriel Tosh 9/19
Mary Metzger 9/26



Our new member, Nancy O'Connor, joined us after visiting our book sale in March. She was attracted by our mission and by our interest group options. She has used her background in social work and law in various roles and is now retired, living in Chehalis. She has already attended several Pages and Beans meetings and is also interested in Travel Group, Miles and Smiles and Cinema Chicks.

Robin Warren is walking both up and down hills after her hip surgery in July. Way to go, Robin!

Mary Metzger has moved to an adult family home located at 122 Sunnyside Drive, Centralia. Please contact her daughter Erica or Pat Campbell if you wish to visit her.

Please let Jo Martens know of any members who may need our support or have something to celebrate.

Women Supporting Women Scholarships

Taylor Babb

Taylor Babb is the recipient of the Kate Gregg Memorial Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year. Taylor is a 2025 graduate of Onalaska High School. She is enrolled this year in the Elmina White Honors College at Washington State University and plans to major in business management with a focus on human resources. Taylor began earning college credits early by participating in the College in the High School Classroom program and graduated from high school with a 4.0 cum g.p.a. She also took on many leadership roles including that of class president and school board ambassador. While in high school, Taylor worked as a barista at Starbucks to help with her college expenses. As one of her letters of recommendation stated, "Taylor is one of those rare individuals who always strives to be the very best student she can be." WSW Scholarships is pleased to help Taylor on her path to reach her educational goals.





Movers and Shakers

Everyone is invited to our next Movers and Shakers public policy interest group. We will meet on Saturday, September 27, 1:00-2:00, at Mint City Coffee Roaster, 539 North Market Blvd, Chehalis, 98532. Our discussion will include the latest updates from Washington State Public Policy meetings, and planning our continued support of Timberland Regional Library, and Hope Alliance.

Reminder : the Hope Alliance donation box will be available at the October meeting. Cash, checks or gift cards for women in crisis are in great need. Thanks!

Kathy Halsan, Kathy Tennyson, Monique Farland, Cathy Cavness

INTEREST GROUPS

Ravenous Readers

Nancy Leventon



The first meeting of the Ravenous Readers will be on Tuesday, September 16, at the home of Kelly Stanley. Bonnie Blake will be leading the discussion of *Three Days in June*, by Anne Tyler. You can arrive anytime after 6:30. The book discussion will begin at 7 pm. If you will be attending the meeting in person, please let Kelly know. If you plan to attend the meeting via Zoom, please let Jo Martens know that so that she can plan for equipment.

About the novel: "Told with deep sensitivity and a tart sense of humor, full of the joys and heartbreaks of love and marriage and family life, *Three Days in June* is a triumph, and gives us the perennially bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer at the height of her powers."

Pages and Beans

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library on September 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., in the small meeting room. We will discuss *Book and Dagger; How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II* by Elyse Graham. This is a hybrid meeting. If you wish to join the group via Zoom, contact Renae Seegmiller. The book is the untold story of the literature professors, librarians, and historians who became OSS spies, invented modern spycraft, and helped turn the tide of the war.

Looking ahead: The October book will be *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams.

Art Group

Bonnie Blake

Art Group will not meet in September. Our next meeting will be October 27 at Kelly Stanley's home. For anyone who wants to know more about Art Group, please contact Bonnie Blake.

Travel Group

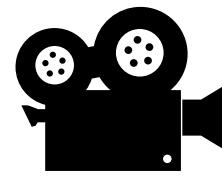
Donna Loucks

Travel Group will not meet in September.

Miles and Smiles

Laura Hewett

We are planning five more walks from September through November 12 to wrap up Miles & Smiles for 2025. Our September walks will include The Evergreen College Beach Trail on the 10th, Mima Falls on September 24, and our two October walks at Tolmie State Park on October 8 and Lake Sacajawea on October 22. Lake Sacajawea is a perfect fall walk with colorful leaves all along the trail. Our last scheduled walk is November 12 at Discovery Trail just north of Centralia along the Chehalis River. We would love to have you join us; please contact Laura Hewett if you would like to be a part of this group.



Cinema Chicks

Nancy Kruger

After our summer pause, Cinema Chicks will begin our monthly gatherings on Tuesday, September 2nd. This is a one-time change from our regular second Tuesday of the month meeting date. We will gather at Nancy Kruger's home at 1:00 to discuss films seen by members over the summer and to share suggestions for upcoming viewing. We will also watch the 1935 adaptation of A Midsummer's Night Dream starring James Cagney, Olivia DeHavilland, Dick Powell, and Mickey Rooney. All are invited but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend. Also, let Nancy know if you would like to be added to the Cinema Chicks email list.



Early Morning Discussion

Norma Green



The EMD topic for 2025-26 is Literary Awards Worldwide – fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 11 from 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. on Zoom.

The topic for September is THE NOBEL PRIZE for LITERATURE. Muriel Tosh will provide general information on the background of the Nobel Prize. Others will provide information on specific authors who have received the award and the literary work for which it was received.

At this time, winning authors who will be covered are Toni Morrison by Laurel Smith and Nadine Gordimer by Donna Loucks. There will be time for at least 2 more authors to be covered.

As always, all AAUW members are welcome to join us, to listen, to join in the discussion, or to make a presentation. Contact chair Norma Green for additional information.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 2 – 1:00 pm Cinema Chicks
Wednesday, September 3 – 10:00 am Java Break
Thursday, September 4 – 7:00 pm Branch Program Meeting
Friday, September 5 – 6:00 pm Statewide In-person Meeting
Saturday, September 6 – 9:00 am Statewide In-person Meeting
Wednesday, September 10 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Thursday, September 11 – 8:30 am Early Morning Discussion
Friday, September 12..... Evening with Authors
Monday, September 15 – 10:00 am Java Break
Tuesday, September 16 – 7:00 pm Ravenous Readers
Wednesday, September 17 – 7:00 pm Board Meeting
Friday, September 19 – 2:00 pm Pages and Beans
Saturday, September 20 Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, September 20 – 1:00 pm Member Get Together
Wednesday, September 24 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Saturday, September 27 – 1:00 pm Movers & Shakers
Saturday, October 18..... EYH

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.

OFFICERS 2025-2026

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