

IN LOVING
Memory



Kathy L. Halsan

“Teacher Kathy”

6/9/52 - 10/17/25

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother & friend

Please join us for an informal gathering of
family & friends to celebrate Kathy's life

Saturday, November 15, 2025

2 PM - 5 PM

Dawn's Delectables

204 N. Tower Ave, Centralia, WA

*In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider a donation to the Lewis
County AAUW at P.O. Box 244, Chehalis, WA 98532.*

BRANCH PROGRAM

Artificial Intelligence

Speaker: Bo Anderson

Bo Anderson will guide us through the emerging world of Artificial Intelligence--not with hype, but with clarity. Bo holds a PhD in AI and is currently building tools to combat polarization. He'll explain how AI really works (and doesn't), where it's already shaping our lives, and what we should be thinking about as citizens, voters, and professionals in the age of machine intelligence.

Since 2016 Bo has had the title "Machine Learning Scientist" and is currently a "Lead Data Scientist" in Seattle at a research startup called Ultraviolet AI, a company with a strong commitment to ethical AI.

BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, November 6, 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:

**Jerry Ferguson, Kristi Nelson,
Pat Campbell**

Online

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 7003 3864

Passcode: 515176

Expanding Your Horizons

Our 30th year of Expanding Your Horizons, in partnership with the Centralia College, TRIO Program happened despite unexpected complications. We provided a valuable service to students in our school district areas which fits into our mission statement "advancing equity for girls through advocacy, education, and research." This year we included boys rather than cancelling the event due to college funding issues.

The Centralia College staff deserve a lot of thanks for revising all the printed material at the last minute and doing a great job of taking care of the registrations. Our committee chairs used their experience to help make it happen. Thank you everyone. Special thanks go to Peggy Hammer for blanketing the radio, newspaper, social media, and a billboard to get the word out.

As Corene Jones-Litteer and Sonya Svenson hand over the leadership to Adele Woodward and Barbara Birney for EYH 31, Corene would like to pass along a special thank you for everyone who filled in when she could not be present due to family obligations.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



[Check out Kendra's video](#)

Kendra Dimaggio was given the WSW scholarship a second time this year. She sent this summary of her experiences at WSU where she's taking pre-veterinary classes and also working in the vet program.

"I've been doing well and staying very busy with school (and work). I'm currently a Pre-Veterinary Animal Science major at Washington State University and this year has really helped shape my interests and future goals. I've been taking a full schedule of animal science classes, including anatomy and physiology, which have been challenging but also some of my favorite courses so far. They've helped me build a stronger foundation for vet school, and I enjoy being able to connect what I learn in class to real world animal health. Career wise, I'm exploring a few different paths within veterinary medicine. I have a strong interest in equine medicine because I've always loved working with horses, but I'm also drawn to small animal practice and even some exotic animal care. I'm keeping an open mind while I continue gaining experience, and I'm excited to see where this journey takes me.

I'm honored to be included in the November newsletter. Women Supporting Women in STEM has had a real impact on my education not only through financial support, but also through the encouragement and sense of community.

SHARING & CARING

Jo Martens

This has been a very sad fall season. We lost Kathy Halsan, who has been an integral part of our branch for many years, and a good friend to many of us. Her presence, her enthusiasm and her cheer will be missed. She passed away on October 17th after a very short illness from cancer. According to her wishes there will be no memorial service.

Ine-Marie van Dam passed away last month. Family held a memorial for her on Saturday, October 25th at her home in Centralia. It was well attended by her friends and family, some even attending via zoom from France and The Netherlands, many of whom shared wonderful memories of Ine-Marie. Jan Snider and I attended from our group.

Another longtime member, Karen McInturff passed away on October 12th. Karen spent most of her professional life as a nurse, but once her children were grown, earned a B.A. in Fine Arts from The Evergreen State College and spent the rest of her life actively involved in the local art community.

Betty Garrett has been in the hospital with heart issues. She now has a stent in an artery that was severely blocked, but that has not stopped the palpitations she has been experiencing, so she is being carefully monitored.

On a happier note, Monique Farland had surgery on October 17th and is home, resting and recovering nicely now. We wish her a rapid recovery. She would appreciate hearing from you. Being stuck at home is a lonely business.

Robin and Steve Warren have returned from three weeks in Italy with a treasure trove of beautiful pictures. They spent time in Rome, Venice and Bologna with a group, then branched off on their own with a train trip to Trieste on the northern Italian coast where they spent several days.

We know members are planning trips to more far-flung places. Please let us know where and when so we can all share travel adventures.

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

Happy Birthday

We are entering the penultimate month of the year, November, which retained both its name and its length when January and February were added to the Roman calendar. Members who share a birthday this month are

Penny Abnet 11/4

Cathy Cavness 11/7

Tami Nordin 11/7

Nancy Kruger 11/11

INTEREST GROUPS

Art Group

Bonnie Blake

There will be no Art Group in November. We will combine November and December meetings into one on December 8th.



Ravenous Readers

Nancy Leventon

The Ravenous Readers will meet on Tuesday, November 18, at the home of Renae Seegmiller. Discussion will begin at 2 p.m. You can arrive anytime after 1:30 p.m. Marina De Merritt is leading the discussion of *The River* by Peter Heller. **Please let Renae know if you will be attending either in person or by Zoom.** You can ask for directions when you RSVP. **Note this is a different start time than what is listed in the directory.** We will be meeting in the afternoons for the months of November, January, February and March.

About the book: Wynn and Jack have been best friends since freshman orientation, bonded by their shared love of mountains, books, and fishing. Wynn is a gentle giant, a Vermont kid never happier than when his feet are in the water. Jack is more rugged, raised on a ranch in Colorado where sleeping under the stars and cooking on a fire came as naturally to him as breathing. When they decide to canoe the Maskwa River in northern Canada, they anticipate long days of leisurely paddles and picking blueberries and nights of stargazing and reading paperback Westerns.

There are surprises in store for the two friends. This first book of a trilogy is indeed a river adventure!



Cinema Chicks

Nancy Kruger

Cinema Chicks will meet next on Tuesday, November 11th, at the home of Adele Woodward. At 1:00 we will stream the film Thursday Murder Club followed by a discussion. This is a 2025 British crime comedy based on the 2020 novel written by Richard Osman. The film stars Helen Mirren, Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley, and Celia Imrie as four residents at the Cooper's Chase retirement home who created the Thursday Murder Club to solve cold murder cases for fun. Their casual sleuthing takes a thrilling turn when they find themselves with a real whodunit on their hands. All are welcome to attend.

Early Morning Discussion

Norma Green

EMD will meet via Zoom on Thursday, November 13, from 8:30 - 10 a.m. to continue this year's discussion of Literary Awards Worldwide – fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. The specific awards we will learn about and discuss this month are the BOOKER PRIZE and the INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE. Laurel Smith will provide information about the focus of each of these prizes. Others will provide information on a few of the authors who have received each of these prizes and the literary work for which it was awarded.

To date, on our list for presentation and discussion are: *Time Shelter*, by Georgi Gospodinov, translated by Angela Rodel for the 1997 International Booker Prize; *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, for the 1997 Booker prize; *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey for the 2024 Booker Prize; and *Schindler's List* by Thomas Keneally, for the 1982 Booker Prize.

All AAUW members are welcome to join us, to listen, to join in the discussion, or to make a presentation. Please contact EMD chair Norma Green for additional information or to be on our email list.



Miles and Smiles

Laura Hewett

Our two October walks took us to Tolmie State Park and Lake Sacajawea in Longview to enjoy the fall foliage, which never disappoints this time of year. We will finish up our 2025 hikes on November 12 just north of Centralia at the Chehalis River Discovery Trail. This is a family-friendly flat trail about 2.6 miles in length; there is a north trail and a south trail, both on the Chehalis River and both are out and back trails. More detailed information about this walk will be sent out in the November 8th WAAG. Please contact Laura Hewett if you would like to be added to the Miles & Smiles interest group.



Pages and Beans

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages and Beans will be meeting on Friday, November 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chehalis Timberland Library. Discussion of the book, *The Lion Women of Tehran*, by Marjan Kamali will be led by Renae Seegmiller. If you would like to join via Zoom, please let Renae know so she can set up the connection.

"Marjan Kamali describes the fictional story in 1950s Tehran, where seven-year-old Ellie lives in grand comfort until the untimely death of her father, forcing Ellie and her mother to move to a tiny home downtown. Ellie meets Homa, a kind, passionate girl with a brave and irrepressible spirit. Together, the two girls play games, learn to cook in the stone kitchen of Homa's warm home, wander through the colorful stalls of the Grand Bazaar, and share their ambitions for becoming "lion women." But their happiness is disrupted when Ellie and her mother are afforded the opportunity to return to their previous bourgeois life. Years later, however, Homa's sudden reappearance in Ellie's privileged world alters the course of both of their lives. Together, the two young women come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures. But as the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, one earth-shattering betrayal will have consequences"

Looking ahead: Pages and Beans will not meet in December, but will meet in January to discuss the book, *The Women They Could Not Silence*, by Kate Moore.

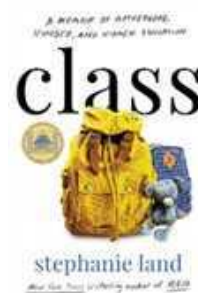
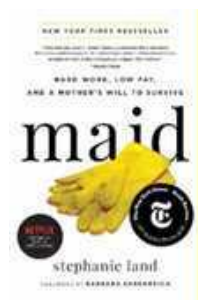




Centralia College - Food Security Events

In fall 2025, Centralia College is hosting its first ever Campus Integrated Theme designed to bring students, faculty, and community members together through shared inquiry and action. The inaugural theme, Food Security, focuses on how food systems intersect with environmental justice, public health, poverty, and equity. The following upcoming events are open to the community.

- Stephanie Land Keynote Presentation, November 3, 1-3pm Stephanie Land, author of *Maid* and *Class*, will discuss the themes from her memoirs, including her experiences navigating poverty and food insecurity as a single-mother in college. Followed by a book signing and light reception. Corbet Theater (Washington Hall)
- Hungry to Learn Film Screening & Discussion, November 13, 4pm This film follows four college students as they navigate food insecurity in their attempt to change their lives for the better. Discussion to follow, facilitated by the Timberland Regional Library. TAC 122
- Hunger Banquet, November 19, 5:30-7pm This is an interactive event that brings statistics about global poverty to life. Guests randomly select meal tickets matching real people who are high-, middle-, or low-income earners, demonstrating that where you end up is all in the luck of the draw. TAC 105B/C [RSVP for the Hunger Banquet](#)
- Cooking on a Budget Workshop, December 3, 5pm. Chef Tim Filer will teach you how to create delicious, healthy, budget-friendly meals. You'll take home something delicious for yourself, as well! Space is limited so RSVP is requested. Blazer Bite Cafe (TransAlta Commons) [RSVP for the Cooking Workshop](#)



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.

MINUTES

Lewis County AAUW Board Meeting - September 17, 2025

President Viki Draper opened the meeting at 7:05. There were fourteen members on Zoom.

Treasury: Donna Loucks proposed that the budget vote be taken at the next Program Meeting. There are some changes that need to be made. Since the future of EYH is not yet determined that money can't be settled. Further discussions followed. It was suggested that money be provided for participants in state level meetings. Donna mentioned that she would like to have an assistant. Some names were mentioned, but no contacts have been made yet.

An Evening with Authors: Viki thanked Jo Marten and all the members who chaired some aspect of the very successful evening. The many baskets were very attractive. All of the displays caught the eyes of the attendees. Jo said that the tentative proceeds from the evening were \$3,750.00. We were reminded that we had an additional bill for the rental of the facilities. This fee was \$885.00. Jo told us that more tickets were sold this year, but there wasn't a final count yet. There was some discussion about alternative sites for next year's event that might be less expensive than the college. Jan Leth proposed a wind-up meeting for the event to discuss the evening. One was scheduled for Monday, September 22 at 3 pm on Zoom.

Miscellaneous: Jeanne Nygard suggested that the college be approached to join AAUW as a corporate member. She had recently attended a state level meeting where that idea was described. Discussion followed, but no decision was made.

Jeanne had recently attended a state meeting in Topponish. The main speaker was the head of the Washington State Women's Commission. Jeannne was quite impressed with the speaker.

It was decided that a contact person from our group be appointed to work with Pacific Lutheran University on Tech Trek. We need more details about that event.

Wendy Tripp announced that her soon-to-be son-in-law had just passed his citizenship test.

The next Business Meeting will be on Wednesday October 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm. Respectfully Submitted Sharon Winningham, Secretary

Lewis County Branch AAUW Program Meeting - October 2, 2025

The meeting was opened at 7 PM by President Viki Draper at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Chehalis. Our guest was Court Stanley, husband of member Kelly Stanley. Court's friendship with Andrea Wilbur-Sigo made it possible for her to be contacted to give tonight's program.

Kelly introduced our speaker for the evening, Andrea Wilbur-Sigo. Andrea is a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe, Nisqually Tribe, and has connections to other tribes. Andrea lives in Shelton. She shared her life story which explained her love of beadwork and basket weaving. She is a very well known artist whose works have been bought and displayed in a wide area, including Seattle. Andrea held us spell bound with her explanation not only of her ties to her art, but the underlying meaning felt by indigenous people. She explained that the key to modern native artwork is to keep the old days in mind while adapting to new technology. Andrea tries to impart that philosophy in her teachings. She has served on the Squaxin Island Tribal Museum board for twenty-five years with the goal of making sure that the story of her tribe is being shared correctly. At the end of her talk she offered to set up a weaving class for any members interested.

Donna Loucks asked that the budget for the next year be voted on. A motion was made and seconded. A vote was made and the budget passed as presented.

There was a donation basket set out for funds to help "Hope Alliance".

Viki thanked this evening's hostesses: Laura Hewett, Carol Kostanich, and Sharon Winningham. Viki adjourned the meeting at 9 PM. Respectfully submitted, Sharon Winningham, Secretary

CALENDAR

Monday, November 3 – 10:00 am Java Break
Tuesday, November 4VOTE
Thursday, November 6 – 7:00 pm.....Branch Program Meeting
Tuesday, November 11 – 1:00 pm Cinema Chicks
Wednesday, November 12 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Thursday, November 13 – 8:30 am Early Morning Discussion
Monday, November 17 – 10:00 am Java Break
Tuesday, November 18 – 2:00 pm Ravenous Readers
Wednesday, November 19 – 7:00 pm General Business Meeting
Friday, November 21 – 2:00 pm Pages and Beans
Saturday, November 22Newsletter Deadline

OFFICERS 2025-2026

President:	Viki Draper
President-Elect:	Monique Farland
Program Vice-Presidents:	Kelly Stanley & Wendy Tripp
Program Committee:	Cathy Cavness, Norma Green, Laura Hewett
Membership Vice-President:	Cathy Cavness
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 Committee:	Nancy Kruger, Chair 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