

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Lewis County

October 2025

BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, October 2, 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:

Carol Kostanich, Sharon
Winningham, Laura Hewett

Online

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 7003 3864

Passcode: 515176

BRANCH PROGRAM

Squaxin Island Wood Carver/Artist

Speaker: Andrea Wilbur-Sigo

Andrea Wilbur-Sigo is a well-known artist coming from many generations of artists and the first known native woman carver. She is a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe. She grew up surrounded by many types of art forms. She started out with beadwork and has learned many Coastal Salish art forms, including bentwood boxes, welcome figures, house posts, masks, panels, button blankets, twine, twill weaving, and basket weaving. Andrea is continually researching and applying her knowledge to her art forms today. She has received several prestigious awards, and her work can be seen at South Puget Sound Community College, Isthmus Park in Olympia (12 feet welcome figure), Seattle Convention Center, Pioneer Square, Port of Seattle, and Little Creek Casino to name a few of the places. Andrea is an active member of her tribe, volunteering her time and artwork for several community events. She also teaches Coast Salish art classes on a regular basis to children and adults for many of the local tribes. "Every generation has played a big role," Andrea says, "in keeping carving where it is, and making sure it continues." We are honored to have Andrea Wilbur-Sigo present at our AAUW meeting on October 2.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED for the 30th Annual EYH conference. If you haven't signed up to help make this year's EYH a success, volunteer TODAY. You will, we assure you, find that EYH a very rewarding and FUN volunteer experience. On October 18, 2025, there will be 225+ excited 6th through 9th graders at Centralia College, eager to learn about opportunities in STEAM-related careers. It's exciting to see young learners discover new opportunities in areas they had not considered before. At EYH this year, students can choose from more than twenty different STEAM-related workshops taught by women in those careers. The Parent Curious Cafe is a new session specifically for parents to learn about the Running Start Program, financial support, and take a tour of the college campus. For more information, check out the [brochure](#) and the [video](#).

Currently, volunteers are needed to during the individual sessions, as well as helping with the student snack time break, and the parents room. Please contact Renae Seegmiller to sign up or for more information. Volunteers will receive emails prior to October 11 with details of your responsibilities including times and locations. If you have any additional questions, contact Swede Svenson or Corene Jones-Litteer

Evening With Authors

Jo Martens

Again, thanks to the time and effort of many members, our evening event went smoothly and a good time was had by all. Some of the most positive comments were about the food donated by 10 local restaurants and Doris Wood's presence and questions as the moderator. The restaurants outdid themselves with their lovely trays of finger foods. If you visit any of these establishments, please let them know how much we appreciated their donations. Sharon Lyons and Jan Leth persuaded the following restaurants: Royal Sushi, The Shire, Cinn-A-Girls, Shona's Food Co, Riverside Bistro, Jeremy's Farm to Table, Chehalis Deli, Bateaus Winery and Toledo Cheese Depot, NW Sausage and Deli. In addition, Woods Bees and The BeeHive Salon both donated baskets, as did Paula Burrows and Julia Gaul with Edward Jones. So many members donated baskets and items for the raffle that Natalie Vedder was able to beautifully arrange and wrap 32 separate items. Donna LaLond made all the table decorations herself. Jan Leth single handedly convinced these two best-selling writers to join our evening event. Patrick Hutchison and Jane Porter were funny, interesting, candid and very entertaining. They both let us know how much they enjoyed the experience. Patrick even donated his honorarium to us for Hope Alliance.

According to treasurer Donna Loucks, our earnings after expenses were about \$3500, though Book n Brush's contribution isn't in just yet. This will all go to Hope Alliance. While our donation to Hope Alliance is a bit less than last year, our expenses were greater since we had to pay for the use of the TransAlta Commons this year. Julie Zander wrote a very nice article for The Chronicle reviewing the evening. Our branch has so many talented and dedicated members whose efforts continue to make every project a success.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AMANDA BENNETT

Amanda Bennett is the recipient of the Sandy Godsey Memorial Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year. Amanda is a 2025 graduate of W.F. West High School. She will be attending Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, and plans to major in the medical field and minoring in psychology. She was inspired by her mother. Her Mom passed away from cancer and Amanda has a goal of helping people and being a positive influence on the world. Amanda graduated from high school with a 3.8 GPA while taking College in the High School classes: College Public Speaking, College French, College Math, AP World History, Advanced Biology/Chemistry and Molecular Genetics. Her activities at W.F. West include leading basketball and track kids' camps, blood drives, and link leader for incoming freshmen. During summers, Amanda worked at Mountain View Woodfired Pizza and Bennie's Gardens. Her counselor in high school wrote, "Amanda demonstrates integrity in her interactions with adults and peers and leads by example: she's a natural leader in the classroom, on her teams, and in the community." WSWScholarships is pleased to help Amanda achieve her educational and lifetime goals.

MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness & Kathy Halsan

Every member is encouraged to use the new Lewis County AAUW Branch brochure distributed at our last meeting. Invite your friends to join our branch, invite them to one of our meetings, or any of our interest groups. Extra brochures are available! Questions? Contact Kathy Halsan or Cathy Cavness.

Movers and Shakers

Kathy Halsan, Kathy Tennyson, Monique Farland, Cathy Cavness

Everyone is invited to our next Movers and Shakers, public policy interest group. We will meet on Monday, October 27, 6:30 on Zoom. We will discuss upcoming legislation in the Washington state legislature, as well as local issues affecting education and the welfare of women and girls in Lewis County. If you have questions please contact any of the following Movers and Shakers members.



INTEREST GROUPS

Early Morning Discussion

Norma Green

On Thursday, October 9th, from 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m., we will continue our year long discussion of Literary Awards Worldwide – fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, via Zoom. This month we will learn about and discuss the PULITZER PRIZE for FICTION. Donna Loucks will provide information on the background of the Pulitzer Prize. Others will provide information on some of the authors who have received the award and the literary work for which it was awarded. Those authors and the book for which the PULITZER PRIZE for FICTION was awarded are: Edith Wharton, the first woman to win the Pulitzer, in 1920, for *The Age of Innocence*, Pearl Buck for *The Good Earth*, Larry McMurtry for *Lonesome Dove*, Willa Cather for *One of Ours*, Thornton Wilder for *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, and Robert Lewis Taylor for *The Travels of Jamie McPheeters*. 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. To be on our email list, please contact EMD group leader, Norma Green.



Ravenous Readers

Nancy Leventon

The October meeting of the Ravenous Readers will be on Tuesday, October 21, at the home of Nancy Leventon. If you are attending in person, please let Nancy know that you will be coming well in advance of the meeting. You can come anytime after 6:30. The discussion of *Shattered Peace* by Julie McDonald Zander (both the author and the discussion leader) will begin at 7 pm.

If you need directions to Nancy's house, inquire when you RSVP to her.

***Shattered Peace*:** When former Navy Seabee Colleen Holmes inherits an old house in Centralia, Washington, she sees it as a chance to escape her own ghosts and start anew. But as she peels back layers of history within the home's walls, she unearths long-buried secrets tied to a dark chapter in the town's history. Inspired by true events, *Shattered Peace* is a gripping time-slip novel of love, loss and the echoes of history that refuse to fade. This haunting tale of resilience, redemption, and the pursuit of truth will longer long after the final page.

Pages and Beans

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will meet at the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library on October 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., in the small meeting room. We will discuss *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams. This is a hybrid meeting. If you wish to join the group via Zoom, contact Renae Seegmiller. From celebrated national leader, the book is a gripping, complexly plotted thriller set within the halls of the U.S. Supreme Court. Looking ahead: The November book will be *The Lion Women of Tehran*.

Art Group

Bonnie Blake

Art Group will meet October 27th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Kelly Stanley's home. Please let Kelly know if you're coming. Bring a potluck brunch item and your own project. Any additional details will be sent out via email. If you wish to be on the email list or have any questions, please contact Bonnie Blake at adnablakes@gmail.com. All are welcome.



Miles and Smiles

Laura Hewett

Hard to believe October is upon us already. The bonus is the colorful leaves this time of year--they do a nice job of decorating our walks. Our two October walks will be Tolmie State Park on the 8th and Lake Sacajawea on the 22nd. For Tolmie we meet at the Nike Outlet to carpool since we'll be going north, and for Lake Sacajawea we'll meet to carpool at EXIT 77 at the Park n Ride right next to the freeway on the east side. Another option for our walks is to meet us at the park. Join us if you can as we wrap up our 2024-2025 walks in November.



Java Break

Jeanne Nygard and Nancy Leventon

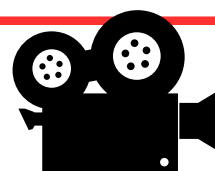
A casual vote was taken and the decision was made to go to Dawn's Delectables the first Monday of the month and to go to Joy's Once Upon a Thyme the third Monday of each month. There might be some variables down the road due to holidays.

Monday, October 6: we will go to Dawn's
Monday, October 20: we will go to Joy's
and so on. Please mark your calendars.
See you then.

Cinema Chicks

Nancy Kruger

Cinema Chicks will meet on Tuesday, October 14th, at 1:00 at the home of Jan Leth to view the film *Didi*. This coming-of-age comedy/drama is the story of Chris Wang, a 13-year-old Taiwanese American boy. Set in 2008, Chris is grappling with his identity and the challenges of fitting in while growing up in California. The film won the Audience Award at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival. All are invited but please let Jan or Nancy know if you plan to attend.



Great Decisions Discussion

You might be curious about U.S. foreign policy and want some background information. You might want to influence U.S. foreign policy. The Foreign Policy Association has provided a way to satisfy your curiosity and desire to be influential by providing a discussion format: Great Decisions. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion group on world affairs. There are discussion groups all across the U.S. The program model involves reading the Foreign Policy Association's annual Great Decisions Briefing Book chapters, watching the relevant DVD, and meeting in a group to discuss some of the most critical global issues facing America today. The 2026 topics are:

America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy
Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy
U.S.-China Relations
Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation
Ukraine and the Future of European Security
Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order
U.S. Engagement of Africa
The Future of Human Rights and International Law



Our local AAUW branches, Hudson's Bay, Lewis County, and Vancouver facilitate a Great Decisions Zoom group (also open to non AAUW members) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 2 p.m. We usually start our discussions in February. If you would like to be part of this group, please let either Rena Seegmiller (Lewis County), or Sue Heise (Hudson's Bay) know so that a book can be ordered for you and you can be placed on the email list.

SHARING & CARING

Jo Martens

October brings the Hunter's Moon, the first full moon after the autumnal equinox and it brings Halloween which is simply the oldest continuously celebrated holiday in the Western World. It predated Christianity by at least 500 years and possibly even more, since it has survived intact from the earliest days of Europe, and not even the date of this very pagan holiday has changed. Our following members are celebrating an October birthday:

Kathy Tennyson 10/23

Lynn Rash 10/26

Kathleen Blanchard 10/28



BRANCH WEB PAGE and FACEBOOK

Did you miss the wonderful presentation by Kerry Serl at the September branch meeting? Would you like a copy of the handout on genealogy resources Kerry prepared? Both are available on our BRANCH WEBSITE along with even more information about our branch. Remember that access to the MEMBERS ONLY pages (password is in the directory) is restricted since you can also find the contact information of all members on the DIRECTORY page. This is your resource if you are out and about and need a phone number. So bookmark this on your smart phone.

Be sure to follow and share our Facebook page and our Instagram page, especially during events like EYH in October. Contact Peggy Hammer with information for social media postings.

MINUTES

Lewis Country Branch AAUW Business Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, August 20, 2025

President Viki Draper called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. There were sixteen members on screen.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May Business Meeting were approved as digitally distributed.

Treasury: A long discussion ensued following Donna Loucks' report.

PROJECTS

Evening with Authors: Jo Martens reported that everything is in place for the evening of September 12th. Doris Wood, the evening's moderator, asked for members to contribute questions she might use. A sign-up sheet for additional helpers will be passed around at the September 4th Branch Meeting.

Expanding Your Horizons: Swede Svenson is handling everything for this event since Corene Jones-Litteer has been out of state with a family health issue. Swede described a new element for this event that will address parents. This program is now being developed. Volunteers are needed to make the school presentations. Posters will soon be put up. Gifts for the speakers have been purchased.

Book Sale: Donna reminded everyone that books for the sale can be gathered at any time now.

Scholarship: Nancy Kruger reported that the committee has two new members, Laura Hewett and Laurel Smith. There are eight members participating. The group contacts this past year's winners during the year to show them our ongoing support.

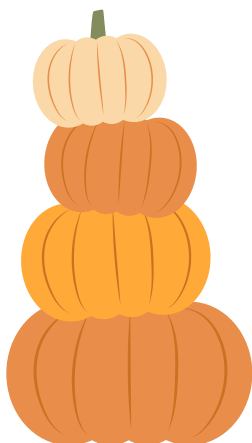
Membership: Cathy Cavness reported that we now have 107 members! The list has not been updated yet, but will be.

Programs: Programs for the 2025-2026 year are nearly complete. May is still under discussion. Kelly Stanley and Wendy Tripp will send out information to the speakers ahead of the meetings.

General Comments: Renae Seegmiller announced that Cheryl is now helping her with producing the newsletter.

Viki reminded everyone that the next Business Meeting will be on ZOOM September 17, 2025. The next Branch Meeting will be on September 4, 2025. Viki adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Winningham, Secretary



MINUTES

Lewis County Branch AAUW Program Meeting September 4, 2025

President Viki Draper called the meeting to order at 7 pm. She read our Mission Statement to the group. Visitors were welcomed and four new members were introduced. Viki announced that the directories for the 2025-26 year are available tonight. Jeanne Nygard and Nancy Leverton were thanked for their work on creating the directories.

The speaker for the evening, Kerry Serl, was introduced. Kerry is a member of our branch. She is a writer and genealogy researcher. Kerry is the co-author of *George Washington of Centralia*. Kerry's program, "The Intrigue of Genealogy" was focused on explaining the steps to take when exploring the genealogy of your own family. Kerry shared stories that she has discovered about her family. Having a good sense of humor is helpful to have when some discoveries are made!

A sign-up sheet was passed around for workers to help with EYH which takes place on October 18, 2025 at Centralia College.

Sharon Lyons thanked all who attended "The Brothers Four" concert which raised \$10,552. Half of that amount was donated to "Hope Alliance".

It was announced that Westminster Presbyterian Church of Chehalis is looking for a pianist. There is a stipend that goes with the position.

Donna Loucks invited everyone to a potluck on September 9th which will be held at Kelly Stanley's home. Donna also brought tomatoes she had grown for anyone who wanted some.

Nancy had information pamphlets which give information about AAUW for the new members.

Swede Svenson had posters for distribution announcing the date of EYH. She reminded us that boys now must be included in this event because of a ruling the college must abide by. The parent co-meeting is being developed.

Cathy Cavness invited everyone to the next coffee on September 20th at 1 pm at "Dawn's Delectables". On September 27th Movers/Shakers will meet at 1 p.m.

Nancy reported that the recent printing of the directory was done at a new shop, "Minute Man" in the Lewis County Mall. She said that the service was excellent.

The speaker at our October 2nd meeting will be the well known woodcarver/artist, Andrea Wilbur-Sigo, who is a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe.

Viki thanked this evening's hostesses Maree Lerchen, Robin DeRoo, and Muriel Tosh.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Winningham, Secretary

American Association of University Women, Lewis County Branch

Proposed Budget for 2025-26 and Comparison with 2024-25

The budget for the upcoming year is prepared based on the income from the book sale in March.

	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Proposed
Income		
Book Sale Proceeds	\$18,875	\$23,525
Membership Dues – Net to branch	\$900	\$900
Interest Income	\$425	\$400
Total Income	\$20,200	\$24,825
Fixed Expenses		
Scholarships (Women Supporting Women)	\$10,000	\$10,000
Banquet & Meeting Costs, Net to branch	\$1000	\$1,000
Insurance	\$200	\$200
Miscellaneous Supplies, etc.	\$635	\$1,500
EYH	\$2,537	?
SubTotal	\$14,372	\$12,700
Discretionary Expenses		
Contribution to WF West STEM Camp	\$2500	\$2000
Contribution to Tech Trek	\$2500	\$2000
Reimbursement for state meetings		\$500
Uncommitted		\$9,625
SubTotal	\$5000	\$12,125
Total Expense	\$19,372	\$24,825
Budgeted but Unspent		\$828
Account Balances as of September 18, 2025		
ID 90 Checking		\$9036.71
ID 00 Prime Savings		\$473.68
ID 20 Money Market		\$1379.20
Dues Support		\$622.34
CD		\$30,303.30
Total Assets		\$41,815.23
Budgeted for coming year		\$24,825.00
Income from Evening with Authors not yet donated - approximate		\$3,500.00
Reserve funds we have been holding for Scholarships & EYH		\$10,000.00
Excess		\$3490.23
Where did this excess come from?		
Leftover from 2024-25 budget		\$828.00
Accumulation from previous years, extra dues, extra interest		\$2662.23

Additional Information about our spending

EYH Reserve : We are up in the air about how much EYH will cost us this year and whether we should budget for next year. For many years, we have been holding \$4000 in an EYH Reserve fund just in case there is a crisis, which is what we are having this year. This fund may be spent to pay the additional costs this year, and we don't know whether we will be able to continue holding EYH in the future. This year's budget has been left with a significant amount of "uncommitted" funds until these are settled.

We also have been holding \$6000 in a **Scholarship Reserve**. This was set aside many years ago in case we failed to earn enough in a book sale to cover the \$4000 contribution to Women Supporting Women Scholarships that has been promised for each year. Now that the amount of money in the WSWS Endowment Fund has increased so that they will always be able to give some scholarships, I propose that this be transferred to Women Supporting Women account (in addition to the \$10,000 in this year's budget).

Dues Support: We have created a fund that can be used to pay dues for members who find them a financial hardship. For several years, we have received a discount on new memberships, and rather than refund it to them, I have transferred it to a separate account called Dues Support. If existing or potential new members want to use it in the future, they should contact the Membership Chairs. If other members want to contribute to it, contact Donna Loucks, Treasurer.

Contributions: Last year we gave \$2500 to the WF West STEM Camp and \$2500 to Washington State AAUW's Tech Trek. It has been suggested that we select one or more girls to attend Tech Trek rather than just donating money. The cost for each girl is about \$2000. We also should consider pushing GeoGirls summer camp and see if we can get a girl from Lewis County selected to participate, in which case we will pay for her tuition.

Contributions that don't show in the Budget: Profit from Evening with Authors is given directly to Hope Alliance, so does not appear in the budget. Expenses are deducted from profit and we give away the remainder. We don't have all the online payments and bills yet for the 2025 EWA so don't have the exact number, but there is about \$3500 to donate to them.

Likewise, nothing is budgeted for the book sale because expenses for it are deducted from the profit. All income and expenses are tracked and details can be provided to anyone who is interested.

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 2 – 7:00 pmBranch Program Meeting
Monday, October 6 – 10:00 am Java Break
Wednesday, October 8 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Thursday, October 9 - 8:30 am Early Morning Discussion
Tuesday, October 14 – 1:00 pm Cinema Chicks
Wednesday, October 15 - 7:00pm.....Board Meeting
Friday, October 17 – 2:00 pm Pages and Beans
Saturday, October 18 - 7:30am -1:00pm..... EYH
Monday, October 20 – 10:00 am Java Break
Tuesday, October 21 – 7:00 pm Ravenous Readers
Wednesday, October 22 – 9:00 am Miles & Smiles
Saturday, October 25Newsletter Deadline
Monday, October 27 – 6:30 pm ZoomMovers & Shakers
Monday, October 27, 10:00am.....Art Group



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