

A festive poster for the 2025 AAUW Holiday Banquet. The background is a soft, light gray with a bokeh effect of white stars and snowflakes. Decorative elements include several large, shiny gold and red Christmas ornaments hanging from the top, and a sprig of green pine needles with needles visible. The text is centered and reads:

2025 AAUW
Holiday Banquet
Thursday, December 11, 2025
5:30 - 6:00 p.m. social time - 6:00 p.m. dinner
Seventh Day Adventist Church
120 Chilvers Road, Chehalis
Dinner and Holiday Enjoyment
Pasta bar with meat, chicken and vegetarian sauces
Catered by Laurie Stuart
Desserts:
Whatever our members bring to share
No peanuts please
Spouses and friends are welcome.
Cost \$26 per person
\$28 if paid online
Deadline for Reservations:
Thursday, December 4

BOOK SALE

Donna Loucks



In early December, the 250 boxes of books that have accumulated since March and are stored in Mary Dahlstrom's garage will be moved to St. John's Lutheran Church. The date is weather dependent. Those who are on the email list for Book Sorters have been contacted and will be again when a date is selected. If you are not on that list and want to be, let Donna Loucks know. These books have been separated into the major categories so we can wait until after the holidays to do anything more with them. In January, work days will be scheduled for sorting and accepting donations. Meanwhile, if you have or know of book donations, contact Betty Garrett or Donna Loucks. They can be taken directly to the church, but the door is locked so they can't be dropped off there without scheduling a time to be met.

Women Supporting Women Scholarships Nancy Kruger – WSWs Chair

As the end of the year approaches, I know that many of us make donations to organizations that we believe in and want to support. In 2003 WSWs was established as a non-profit corporation by Lewis County AAUW to provide revenue for tuition scholarships awarded to women of Lewis County attending college or trade school. WSWs is an ideal place to donate in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or as a tax-deductible contribution to a worthy cause. Persons over 70 ½ years may make contributions from traditional IRAs as part of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) without it being considered a taxable distribution. If you are interested in donating to Women Supporting Women Scholarships, fill out this form and mail it along with your check to Donna Loucks. Thank you for your support now and in the past.

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of _____

In honor of: _____

or

In memory of : _____

Please send a card to:

Make check payable to
Women Supporting Women
Scholarships
Mail to: Donna Loucks, Treasurer
P.O. Box 244
Chehalis, WA 98532

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Emma Stewart is one of our 2024 scholarship recipients. She had been attending Centralia College through the Running Start program and is continuing at CC in the nursing program. She indicates that all is going well. She is working full time at Three Rivers Care in Centralia as a Nursing Assistant. She says that she is forming strong bonds with her residents while learning the fundamentals of great care. She is supporting herself, living in Chehalis, and enjoying her time in the Nursing Program.



Allie Anderson is one of our 2024 scholarship recipients. She attends Central Washington University and is working towards a degree in elementary education. She indicated that this year is going really well for her. She is loving the environment on campus and going to all the campus events. She says that it has been an adjustment from home but overall has been a great experience and she is looking forward to what else the year brings! She sends her thanks to the WSWs and shared a huge thank you as this wouldn't be possible without her scholarships!

SHARING & CARING

Jo Martens

A Time to Reflect

By Catherine Pulsifer

*The year's last page begins to turn,
With lessons taught and goals to yearn.
In December's chill, a fire ignites,
Dreams of new days and brighter nights.*



This has been an eventful year for our branch. We've organized successful fundraisers and community events. We have lost good friends and we've made new ones. Within days we will gather to enjoy each other's company as we celebrate the holiday season. Several of our members will be celebrating the anniversary of their personal trip around the sun. We wish them all a coming year full of good times.

Kristi Nelson 12/2
Corene Jones-Letteer 12/9
Peggy Barth 12/10
Katelyn Hill 12/12
Michele Harvey 12/22
Sharon Lyons 12/25
Luanna Graves 12/30
Michele Styron Bates 12/26



Judy Bell is healing from her leg/ankle break at home now and is getting used to being non-weight bearing. She appreciates the support given from the members.

Please let Jo know of anyone with either adversity or celebrations.

MEMBERSHIP

Cathy Cavness

All members are invited to get together on Saturday, December 13, 1:00-2:00ish at Mint City Coffee Roasters, 539 North Market Blvd. Chehalis. Drop in while out shopping, let's discuss our next AAUW project, and enjoy a brief time together during the bustle of holidays.

Questions?
Contact Cathy Cavness.

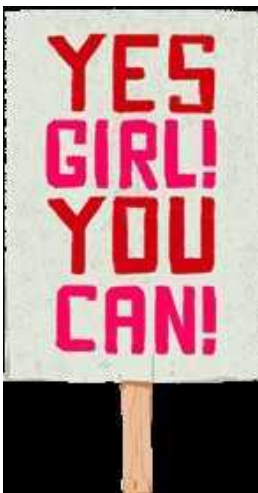


Movers and Shakers

Our branch public policy interest group will not meet during December. Please put Advocacy Day/Week on your calendar, Monday, January 26, 2026. (Advocacy Day replaces our former Lobby Day.) This will be a state zoom meeting to learn about the legislation AAUW Washington will be supporting in the next legislative session beginning January 12, 2026. Advocacy Day will be held during the morning, with short speakers to explain/discuss upcoming bills to be introduced in the legislature, as well as information from our AAUW-WA lobbyist, Nancy Sapiro. AAUW Washington vets bills to be supported through the lens of how our mission is supported as well as our public policy priorities. Watch the WAAG for the registration to attend Advocacy Day 2026.

Our branch Movers and Shakers continue to attend TRL Trustee Board meetings. Please contact Kathy Tennyson or Cathy Cavness for information on joining this effort.

All members are welcome to join the public policy discussion at the state level, go to AAUW-WA, public policy tab for the zoom link to attend on Tuesdays. Public policy interest group, Kathy Tennyson, Monique Farland, Cathy Cavness.



Early Morning Discussion

Norma Green

EMD meets via Zoom on Thursday, December 11, 8:30 a.m.- 10 a.m. to continue this year's discussion of Literary Awards Worldwide – fiction, non-fiction, & poetry. This month we'll learn and discuss the John Newbery Medal, frequently shortened to the Newbery. It is a literary award given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), to the author of "the most distinguished contributions to American literature for children. Nancy Leventon will provide information about this medal's origin.

To date, a few of the Newbery Medal winning authors we will learn about and discuss are: Richard Peck for *A Year Down Yonder* in 2001; Carol Ryrie Brink for *Caddie Woodlawn* in 1936; and Lois Lensky for *Strawberry Girl* in 1945. Most are the presenter's favorite childhood read. All AAUW members are welcome to join us, to listen, join in the discussion, or make a presentation. Please contact EMD chair Norma Green for additional information or to be on our email list.

Cinema Chicks

Nancy Kruger

Cinema Chicks will meet on Wednesday, December 10, at the home of Renae Seegmiller. Please note that this is a change from our usual scheduled meeting date. At 1:00 we will stream the movie *Sing Sing* starring Coleman Domingo who was nominated for Best Actor at the 97th Academy Awards. This 2023 prison drama centers on a group of incarcerated men involved in the creation of theatrical stage shows through the real-life Rehabilitation Through the Arts program. Everyone is invited.



INTEREST GROUPS

Ravenous Readers

Nancy Leventon

The Ravenous Readers will not be meeting in December. In January 2026 our book for discussion will be *The Paris Novel* by Ruth Reichl.

See you in January!



Pages and Beans

Corene Jones-Litteer

Pages & Beans will not meet in December. Looking ahead, we will discuss, in January, *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore. It's 1860, threatened by Elizabeth Powell's intellect, independence, and outspokenness, her husband of twenty-one years is plotting against her and makes a plan to put her back in her place. He has her committed to an insane asylum where she finds she is not the only sane woman confined to the institution.



Art Group

Bonnie Blake

Art Group will meet at Bonnie Blake's home on Monday, December 8, 10 am to 1 pm. Please bring a brunch food to share and your own project. Let Bonnie know if you plan to attend, adnablakes@gmail.com or 360-269-8420.

MILES and SMILES

Laura Hewett

As we gear up for 2026, Laura is looking for people who would like to give input on destinations. She will be looking at early December to prepare next year's schedule and to open up the opportunity to any walkers who would like to help make decisions about where and what time of year for each hike. If you are interested to meet and help prepare a schedule, please let her know soon so a date can be set to get together for planning.



Minutes of Branch Meeting November 6, 2025

Presentation by Brigham “Bo” Anderson PhD entitled “What is Artificial Intelligence: 3 + 1 things to know”. The presentation was viewed by AAUW members from around the state via zoom, as well as members in attendance. Dr. Anderson discussed the different AI platforms, ChatGPT, GROK, Gemini. Recommended listening to Sam Altman, CEO of Open AI, for useful information about AI. He can be found on YouTube. Stated development of AI is simpler than anyone thought, will be coming sooner than what the media is saying and is safer than what the media is reporting. Reviewed the two distinct types of memory: Episodic and Semantic. Episodic Memory has a lower need for cognition, is used by influencers, and can be more prone to lies and errors. Semantic Memory is nonlinear, more logical and fact based. Involves analysis of experience and is better at detecting errors. These two styles have trouble talking to each other. Many good questions and discussions during the presentation.

Business Meeting Vicki Draper opened the meeting. Guests present were Lisa Birley and Donna Alvey.

Kelly Stanley announced our December meeting will be our Christmas party, to be held on December 11th at the Chehalis Seventh Day Adventist Church. Social hour will be from 5:30 PM to 6 PM. Laurie Stewart will cater for the event again. The membership decided by consensus to provide desserts from home. Cost will be \$26 per person. Checks can be sent to Donna Loucks. Invitations will be out by the next business meeting. Final headcount due November 30th. Entertainment to be announced.

Cathy Cavness distributed flyers regarding an informal gathering of family and friends to celebrate Kathy Halsan who passed away on October 17th. The gathering will be from 2 to 5 pm on November 15th at Dawn's Delectables 204 N Tower Ave, Centralia WA. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider a donation to the Women Supporting Women Scholarship fund. Checks may be sent to Donna Loucks at 1431 Mark Twain, Centralia WA 98531.

Next Business meeting will be November 19th at 7 PM via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be no Board meeting in December. Thank you to the November Hostesses! Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 PM

Minutes submitted by MJ Marsh, Secretary

Minutes of Board Meeting - November 19, 2025

President Viki Draper opened the meeting. Minutes: The minutes of the September Business Meeting were digitally distributed and approved.

TREASURY: Donna Loucks showed the approved budget and the amounts that have been spent to date. She asked for a motion to transfer \$6000 that has been held as a scholarship reserve for many years to WSWS. A motion was made and approved. The account balance as of November 19 is \$27,670.84. Some transportation bills for EYH have not yet been paid, but based on estimates, the cost of EYH will be close to \$3620. Donations in memory of Kathy Halsan have been a little over \$3,000. Donna created a way for people to make donations online using Zeffy.

EYH: Swede and Corene: 204 students attended, 56 of which were boys. In looking at the presenters' evaluations, their scores from 1-5 were rated from 4.0-4.8 and we had many return presenters. Teachers and school presentations produced the most attendees; posters were rarely mentioned. Parent Workshop had 14 parents attend. In the future, we will need a sign-in system for them and directions of where to go after the OMSI presentation. Additional information is available on Google Drive. There was excellent participation from AAUW members. We will have a regularly-scheduled business meeting on January 21 at 6:30 with the additional topic of having or not having EYH next year.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Nancy Kruger said she has received the first scholarship application for the 2025-2026 school year. Applications are now available on our website and are due by February 15. Last year we offered nine scholarships of \$2,000 each.

MEMBERSHIP: Cathy Cavness announced a membership get-together on December 13 at 1:00 p.m. at Mint City Coffee in Chehalis. Movers and Shakers will meet November 29 at noon, also at Mint City.

BOOK SALE: Betty Garrett is collecting books and we have about 250 boxes in Mary Dahlstrom's garage that need to be moved soon to the Lutheran Church as the weather worsens. Donna will organize the date and time.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Kelly Stanley stated that on December 11th at 5:30 we will have our party at the Seventh Day Adventist Church and it will be catered by Laurie Stuart, who did this last year. Members may bring dessert items if they wish, and our entertainment this year is a mystery. Kelly added that our January Branch Meeting's speaker is Lisa Leon, recently elected Centralia School Board member and works with the juvenile court system.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Laura Hewett, Fill in Secretary

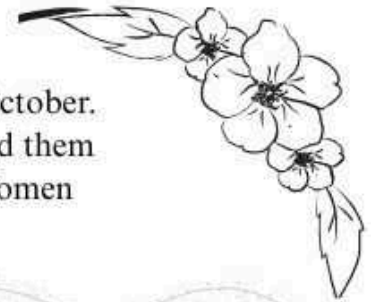
BRANCH WEB PAGE and FACEBOOK

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.



We grieve the loss of 3 branch members in October.
Many members and friends have remembered them
with donations to our endowment fund, Women
Supporting Women Scholarships.



In Memory
of
Karen McInturff
by
Peggy Barth
Norma Green
Donna LaLond
Donna Loucks

In Memory
of
Ine van Dam
by
Peggy Barth

In Memory
of
Kathy Halsan
by
Peggy Barth
Pat Campbell
Cathy Cavness
Corrine Crowner

In Memory
of
Kathy Halsan
by
Brian Dow
Dee Eckhardt
Tami Fugate
Norma Green

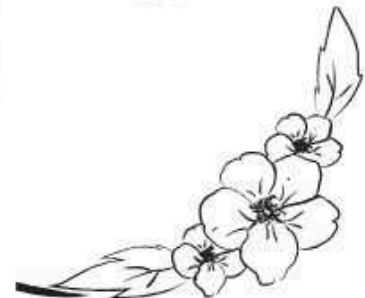
In Memory
of
Kathy Halsan
by
Mary Hamlin
Katrina Hall
Donna LaLond
Jan Leth

In Memory
of
Kathy Halsan
by
Donna Loucks
Sharon Lyons
MJ Marsh
Marlene McCabe

In Memory
of
Kathy Halsan
by
Sharon Miracle
Kristi Nelson
Jeanne Nygard
Susan Plank

In Memory
of
Kathy Halsan
by
Joanne Schwartz
Renae Seegmiller
Kelly Stanley
Jenny Tessaro

In Memory
of
Kathy Halsan
by
Ann Tuning
Natalie Vedder
Beth Wilder



CALENDAR

Monday, December 1 – 10:00 am Java Break
Monday, December 8 – 10:00 am Art Group
Wednesday, December 10 – 1:00 pm Cinema Chicks
Thursday, December 11 – 8:30 amEarly Morning Discussion
Thursday, December 11 – 5:30 pmHoliday Dinner
Saturday, December 13 – 1:00 pmAll Members Coffee
Monday, December 15 – 10:00 am Java Break
Saturday, December 27Newsletter Deadline
Monday, January 26Advocacy (former Lobby) Day



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-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 Vi 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

