



Bellingham Branch members take part in watershed Women's Marches

by Gwen Parker

Joining a reported 3.5 million people around the globe, members of Bellingham AAUW walked in the historic January 21st Women's Marches in both Bellingham and Seattle.

A half-dozen of us met before the Bellingham march and planned to walk together. We got separated, and a couple other members we hoped to join were never found among the estimated 5,000 people who walked in through downtown. Other members planned to walk with their families.

Member Teizeen Mohamedali spoke before the Bellingham march as a Muslim woman, to let people know American Muslims are good citizens with jobs and families like everyone else. There were two Native American speakers, poets and musicians, and cheers of support for every marginalized group.

To hear Teizeen's excellent speech, click on this link:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=YnDh5nQlsa4>

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The Bellingham march starting point at City Hall.



Teizeen Mohamedali



Lucy Eggerth with our banner.



AAUW members support Women's March

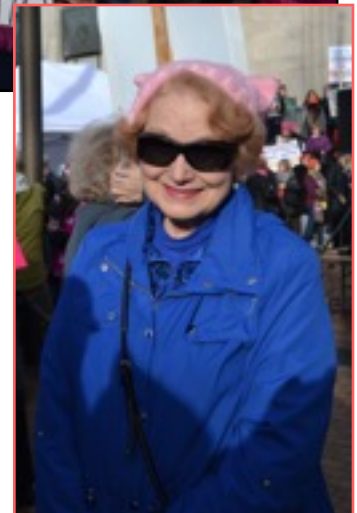
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Member Marziah Kiehn walked with her family in Seattle. She reported: *"The Seattle March was a resounding success and uplifting experience. It was a long day with 120,000 others. My parents are 88 and 90 and made the entire 3.6 mile walk with my sister and me, all decked out in knit pink hats. My dad, a Korean vet (Marine), retired teacher and coach, and father of 3 daughters, requested one as well. Because there was overloaded cell service we were unable to make contact with other AAUW marchers in Seattle but heard cheers behind us when AAUW was mentioned over the loudspeaker. It is only the beginning.*

"I traveled from Olympia to Bellingham and then to Seattle for the March. When I arrived in Bellingham, I found my mother busily making signs. Mom at 90 attracted a lot of attention with her sign and requests for photographs. One young woman remarked, 'I hope I am in as good shape as you when I'm 90 to be doing this.' The response: 'I sincerely hope you don't have to.' Doesn't that speak for all of us?"

The Bellingham march was peaceful, with many people bringing babies in strollers, older children and pets. A few people had signs or banners supporting Trump, but they were not hassled, as far as I could tell. Everyone respected their right to free speech. The marchers were a wonderful group of men and women concerned about civil rights, the environment, health care and other issues. . Everyone felt supported and energized.

At right, top to bottom: Young marchers in Bellingham. Bellingham Branch member Varya Fish. Kiehn family at Seattle march.



Vintage book is surprise for Pickford Film Center Director

We Bellinghamsters always knew we were special, but Susie Purves, executive director of the Pickford Film Center, can actually count the ways — at least where film is concerned.

She told an attentive crowd at the January branch meeting that, among other things, Bellingham has a unique list of Top Ten favorite movies seen in 2016. She says the list matches no other. Here are most of those ten:

Captain Fantastic

Florence Foster Jenkins

Manchester by the Sea

Where to Invade Next

Brooklyn

Love and Friendship

The Eagle Huntress

The Lady in the Van

Hunt for the Wilderpeople

(Several of those films were our Reel Movie Lovers interest group picks.)

Purves was a fount of facts about film, especially relating to the Pickford. For example, the film center has nearly 5000 members, of which senior women are the largest constituency. In 2013 Pickford sold 66,000 tickets, and in 2016, almost 90,000 tickets. Also in 2016, 371 different movies were screened. ***Purves calls the Pickford “the ecumenical heart of Bellingham,”*** and says the center partners with about 90 local organizations, including schools, businesses and non-profits. The PFC mission is *“to provide a forum and resource for independent cinema, strengthening community through education, dialogue and the celebration of film.”*

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Movie memorabilia — Branch member Julia Claire Earnest, left, had a special item to share with speaker Susie Purves: A book published in 1914 titled *The Eagle's Nest*, which included photos of Mary Pickford, for whom the local film center is named and who starred in the movie version of the book. Julia says that as a youngster, she collected this and other old books.