

High School Scholars Recognition set for May 11

The 12th annual High School Scholars Recognition will be held on May 11th at 10 a.m. in place of the regular branch meeting. This event honors young women scholars from Whatcom County who have been nominated by their high schools for excellence in the areas of math, science and technology. It will take place at the SPARK Museum of Electrical Invention, 1312 Bay Street, in downtown Bellingham.



All branch members are encouraged to attend the event. **Members are asked to provide finger food for the refreshment table (2 dozen items per member is requested) and to arrive early.**

Two speakers will share their experiences with the girls and their families. Emily Clark is a certified professional soil scientist who specializes in mining reclamation, riparian restoration and agriculture. She will be coming from Albuquerque, New Mexico. The other speaker is Robin Kodner. She is an assistant professor of biology at WWU.

After the certificates and gifts are awarded, there will be time to visit with the honorees and their families. The Spark museum is offering a free tour to all who attend. In addition, they are offering free admission to their spectacular electrical show that begins at 2:30 p.m.



Changing lives through literacy

by Gwen Parker

Can I commit enough time to truly change a life? That is the question I suspect many Bellingham Branch members were asking themselves, as they listened to our April guest speaker, Katherine Freimund. She is Executive Director of the Whatcom Literacy Council, and she opened our eyes to the wide variety of ways people are helped to achieve greater literacy.



Katherine Freimund

Both native English speakers and those for whom English is a second language are clients of WLC. People get help in learning the vocabulary needed in their jobs, or
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Northwest Coast Culture Lessons continue

by Gwen Parker

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of serving as a volunteer at Whatcom Museum for a program that was originally started by Bellingham AAUW. Designed for third and fourth graders, it teaches them about the life and culture of Northwest Coast Indian tribes. The program is still flourishing as a joint effort between local schools and the museum.

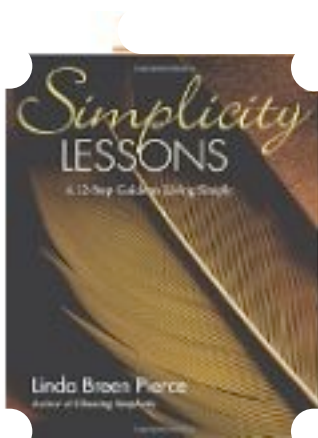
Called "People of the Sea and Cedar Hands-on Workshop," the two-hour event gives students a chance to see photos, genuine artifacts and reproductions of the tools, clothing, masks and other objects produced from materials native to our coastal area.

For the second half of the program, parent (and grandparent!) volunteers work at five different stations where students learn to shred inner cedar bark, make twine, practice weaving and woodworking, and learn about bentwood boxes, fishing equipment, and other parts of daily tribal life.

Teachers are grateful for the chance to give the students a hands-on lesson that would be impossible to carry out at school. The kids were very interested and focused on what they were learning.



Geneva Elementary student Jenny Cherry models a traditional button blanket from Whatcom Museum collection.



New Simplicity Circle interest group Plans May 20 start date

The AAUW Simplicity Circle will hold its first meeting on Monday, May 20, 4-6 p.m.

Location is still being determined and will be sent to those who RSVP to Dianne Davis at diannedavis46@gmail.com or call her at 206/719-8212. The assignment for the meeting is to read the first chapter of the text selected, *Simplicity Lessons*, by Linda Breen Pierce (2003). This is an on-going monthly group meeting on the third Monday 4-6 p.m. and will be closed to new members after the first meeting.

Bellingham Branch chooses young scholars for Tech Trek

Two Bellingham seventh grade girls have been chosen to attend Tech Trek, the week-long summer camp to be held for the first time in Washington State, this summer. The AAUW-sponsored camp, which concentrates on math and science programs, will be held at Pacific Lutheran University, near Tacoma.

Bellingham Branch donated \$1000 from our coffers, which was matched by a personal donation from Kelvie Comer, State Co-President. If more donations for the program come in, we have two very deserving alternates who could also attend.



Branch members Susan Moen, Lila Brumback and Pam Sankey took on the task of visiting Bellingham middle schools to ask teachers and counselors to select possible candidates, and later read the girls' applications and made the final selections. All three women were very impressed with the quality of the applicants, and hope to raise enough donations to continue the program next year and expand the search for candidates to all Whatcom County middle schools.

Conceived as a way to keep young girls involved with science, technology, engineering and math subjects, Tech Trek was established as a state wide program by AAUW California in 1998. As of its 14th year in California in 2012, more than 7,000 young girls have attended, many saying that it had been the most influential personal or academic experience of their middle school years.

Newsletter changes hands

Our newsletter editor, Sue McDonald, has asked to be relieved of her duties, due to the fact that her double position as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, added to family concerns, has been too big a load for one person to handle. (She also is a substitute teacher.)

We owe Sue a large debt of thanks for taking on both positions, at a time when the branch was struggling to stay viable. Her enthusiasm, hard work and sense of humor are a huge addition to Bellingham Branch. She is a team player, and will continue as our Treasurer.

For the present, I will handle newsletter duties, but Lila Brumback has volunteered to assist, and we are currently testing to be sure her software will adapt to our needs. (She currently publishes a Real Estate newsletter.)

--Gwen Parker



Robotics is theme for Girls Go Tech this year

Two middle-school students assemble a robot during a **Girls Go Tech** session at Whatcom Community College April 13. At the end of the day, they tested the bot by running it through an obstacle course. Robotics was a new feature at this annual WCC program which is partially supported with AAUW money and and volunteers. Liz Wright was our volunteer and photographer this year.

Interest Group Information

Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in downtown Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Book for May is *The Man from Beijing* by Henning Mankell. Ruth Norman will lead the discussion. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

Dames Who Dine

Contact: Lori Smiley 360-739-1379.

Do-it-Yourself Walking Group

The former Women Who Walk and Wine is closed, but persons who wish to meet at 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays at the Bellwether, are encouraged to do so. There is no leader at this time.

PM Book Club

The Evening Book Group meets at 6:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month downstairs in the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. We welcome all comers. May book: Charles

Mann's *1491*. Please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526

Simplicity Circle

The AAUW Simplicity Circle will hold its first meeting on Monday, May 20, 4-6 p.m.

Location is still being determined and will be sent to those who RSVP to Dianne Davis at diannedavis46@gmail.com or call her at 206/719-8212. (More information on page 2.)

Women's Discussion Group

The AAUW Women's Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, May 7, 7-9p.m.

The topic is Friendship and discussion questions will be emailed the week before the meeting. Location: Susan Moen's home, 4949 Samish Way #3. Please RSVP to Susan at susanmoen@comcast.net or call 360-778-2510. Come and share your experiences!

Come to Whatcom County Wine Country...



*Get your tickets now for the AAUW Wine Tasting Party
at Samson Estates Winery
and bring your friends!
3 to 6 pm -- June 8*

Samson Estates Winery is an easy drive from Bellingham, and has a **large indoor tasting room** if weather turns sour. A **tour of the winemaking area** will be given, and we will once again have **gift baskets** to raffle off. Our **guitarist** from last year's event will return, to provide classical and jazz music.



Proceeds will help **provide scholarships** to women attending local colleges or Western Washington University.

Price this year is \$30, an increase which reflects a \$10 per person fee in our contract with the winery. However, the **winery will donate 30% of bottle sales** to our scholarship fund!

For questions, tickets sales or copies of our brochure with driving directions, contact Liz Wright, 360-671-5518.



Membership Matters



by Liz Wright

Hooray! It's just the start of our annual membership renewal drive, and 28 members already have renewed their membership for the coming year.

But we need **all of you** to give power to our local branch: We need your participation in our meetings with local community leaders and artists; we need your support for our many educational programs for local women and girls; and we need your enthusiastic involvement in our book clubs and discussion groups. We also need your support for our team in Washington, DC, which works to pass legislation assisting women and girls.

Dues remain the same: \$49 national dues, \$10 state dues, and \$11 local dues, for a total of \$70.

Please complete the branch data form to update our records on your committee and interest group preferences. You don't need to write your contact or school information again if they haven't changed. Mail the form and your check to the P.O. Box listed on the form, or bring it to the next meeting. If you wish, you can print a form from our Web site at <http://bellingham-wa.aauw.net/> Please join us! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Liz Wright at lswrights@gmail.com or Helene Berg-Kolin at hbergkolin@gmail.com.

AAUW BELLINGHAM EXECUTIVE BOARD 2012-2013

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Literacy..... (continued from page 1)

they get help in passing the GED, and they even get help in computer literacy.

While we think of immigrants as the major users of literacy assistance, there are many reasons why native English speakers also need help in learning to read and write. If a child's parents are illiterate, the child may also be. Dyslexia can be another reason why a person never mastered reading. Without adequate literacy skills, living in today's society is tremendously difficult.

The WLC staff works to place each person in the right sort of setting for his or her needs. Would-be tutors fill out applications, and are interviewed, with the aim of matching each one to the right student or classroom. Some tutors work one-on-one with a student, and others work with small classes. The aim is to have the same tutor working with a student until they reach their individual goal, which might be employment, citizenship or preparing for further education.

The Council has helped over 8,000 adults in Whatcom County, since the program's inception in 1978. They work closely with local schools to be sure each person gets the most appropriate help possible.

News and notes

Planning is well under way for our June 8 wine-tasting (see page 5) and now the time has come for volunteers to step forward for creating gift baskets for the raffle, providing delicious appetizers, taking tickets, serving wine, and more. So far, the Adelante! book group has volunteered a basket and some volunteers have raised their hands.

Anyone involved in last year's event will tell you that it was loads of fun -- so call or email Liz Wright and tell her how you want to help. Ph. 360-671-5518 or email lswrights@gmail.com

Thanks to new volunteers

A big Thank You to Suzanne Thorp for volunteering to be our "Sunshine Committee-of-One" to send cards for congrats, get-well or condolences. If you know of someone we should remember with a card, please let Suzanne know.

Thanks also to *Elsie Heinrich, Carol Simmer and Jean Cox-Treverton*, who all agreed to help with our book sale.

And, thanks to the following for being part of what we might call our "Memorable Meetings" committee -- in other words, who will help set up for meetings held at the YWCA. *Gwen Parker and Ingeborg Paulus* will bring coffee in September. *Lori Smiley* will handle food table set-up in November, and *Susan Moen* will bring flowers.



We have a need for more volunteers for coffee and food table set-up. Many hands

NCCWSL news

Thanks to *Maggie Fuqua* for her efforts to find matching funds at Western to send a student to NCCWSL. She was not able to raise funding, so Bellingham Branch will not be co-sponsoring a delegate this year. However, we have discovered that since Western held an AAUW Elect Her conference on campus this year, they receive funds to send one student to the Washington, DC event. Carly Roberts is the Elect Her student liaison, according to Lisa Rosenberg, assistant director of student activities at WWU.

Baby news!

Teizeen Mohamedali and her husband report that their new baby girl arrived March 15, weighing in at 6 lbs, 15 oz. Congratulations to the baby for picking great parents!

State meeting combines serious work and time for fun

As Bellingham Branch Co-Presidents, Susan Moen and I, Gwen Parker, attended the State AAUW meeting April 19 and 20 in the Tri-Cities. Hotel, meeting space and fund-raising events were spread among Kennewick, Richland and Pasco venues.

Highlight of the event was a speech by Lisa Maatz, AAUW's Director of Public Policy and Government Relations. She is the recipient of the 2013 Winn Newman Award for her unwavering advocacy to close the wage gap. She joins other prominent award recipients, including Lilly Ledbetter, Betty Dukes, and Rep. Rosa DeLauro.



Lisa Maatz, left, with Washington Co-Presidents Kelvie Comer and Barbara Sando.

We came away from her speech feeling that AAUW is fortunate to have her as a lobbyist in the Capitol, and also feeling a weight of responsibility. Lisa says that

both Democrats and Republicans rely on AAUW to be a non-partisan voice of reason that helps negotiate contentious bills. We learned a lot about the behind-the-scenes action in DC.



Gwen poses with Tri-City Herald newspaper boy in old-town Kennewick.

Fundraising events were held at Barnard Griffin winery. We were fortunate to have the owner, Rob Griffin, talk to us about his wines and some history of the winery.

You Are Welcome

All women possessing a four - year bachelor's degree or a two - year associate's degree are welcome to become AAUW members.