



September = STEM



Two different programs for middle school girls, involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) will be the focus of our Sept. 12th meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. at the Bellingham YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St..

Special guests will be several of the eight young women sponsored by our branch who attended AAUW's Tech Trek science camp in July, at Pacific Lutheran University. Their families as well as teachers and counselors from the four Bellingham middle schools they represent have also been invited to the meeting. The young women will talk about their experiences at Tech Trek Camp and how the experience has influenced their interest in STEM.

Our featured speaker, Software Developer Sydney Cole, will speak about "Robotics for Middle School Girls in the Bellingham Public Schools." Cole is founder of Creators and Innovators Club for Girls, an after-school robotics program which began last year at Kulshan Middle School.

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Seven of this year's Bellingham Branch Tech Trek scholarship recipients show their certificates of acceptance at a pre-camp get-together.

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BTC Scholarship winner

Clutter Coach coming!

Tech Trek and new robotics program to be meeting topics

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Cole will tell us a little of her motivation, give details of the program, how it began, and where it's going. She'll also share some of the creative and ingenious projects completed by the girls and presented to the School Board last spring.

Refreshments will be provided by the Branch Executive Board.

Bellingham Branch is appreciative of all the members and others who have contributed time and money to the Tech Trek project. Once again, we especially thank Seattle Branch for their financial support of Bellingham students this year.

Tech Trek Washington has increased the number of campers from 50 in 2013 to 89 in 2014 and now to 144 in 2015. This year saw the addition of a second camp at Eastern Washington University. All this is possible because of generous donors and supporters locally and statewide. Bellingham Branch has sent young women from Bellingham since the inception of the program in Washington State in 2013. (California began the program in 1998.)

More information about the robotics program is found at <https://www.facebook.com/CreatorGirls> and to read more about Tech Trek go to <https://www.aauw.org> and type in Tech Trek.

Welcome!

Bellingham AAUW offers scholarships and supports numerous programs which help women and girls gain equity in all areas of life.

Anyone possessing a four-year bachelor's degree or a two-year associate's degree is welcome to become a member.

We enjoy a wide variety of programs and events, as well as each other's company.

Summer Leadership Meeting in Ellensburg

Susan Moen, Margo Hammond and Liz Wright traveled to Ellensburg on August 22 to join AAUW members from around the state for for this years's AAUW Summer Leadership Meeting. An action-packed day of activities was offered around the theme of "Review-Refresh-Renew".

Besides the informative reports from state leaders about the State Convention and upcoming initiative, there were many chances for participants to interact with each other during the poster sessions, and small group discussions on selected topics of interest to the branches. After lunching together, there was a chance for some fun when trainer Cynthia D'Amour led participants through some role-playing activities which gave practice with "selling" AAUW to prospective members.

At the end of the day, there were some closing thoughts and still a little more fun and excitement with a raffle and drawing for bottles of wine and a big wheel of Beecher's Cheese. It was generally agreed that this well-organized meeting met its goals and gave us all a little lift before starting the work of the coming year.



Interest Groups

New Interest Group planned

Calling all Reel Movie Lovers! There seems to be some interest in a Movie Club, so let's give it a try. The idea is to see movies on a monthly basis, and then discuss the movie afterwards. Participants will meet at a Bellingham theater for the movie, and afterwards go to a nearby cafe or coffee shop for discussion and a bite to eat or drink. The group can decide how often to watch a movie, what days/hours are preferable, what movies are of interest to the group, who will select the movie, and any other related decisions.

I am willing to set the plan in motion, and organize the first movie date. Discussion afterward would include all the afore-mentioned questions. The first date will be later in September. Look for an email notice or announcement telling the movie and date.

If you are interested, please let me know by email. And if you have any ideas for forming the interest group, those would be appreciated, too. Even if you won't be able to attend the first movie, it would be good to have your statement of interest and your ideas.

Liz Wright, lswrights@gmail.com

Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon, usually on the fourth Thursday. The **September 24th book** will be *And the Mountains Echoed*, by Khaled Hosseini. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

"The Bookies" Book Group

The evening book group meets at 6:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. The **September book** will be *Shantaram*, by Gregory David Roberts.

We welcome all comers - please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526.

Coffee and Conversation

Meets the *third Friday* of the month at 3 pm at The Woods Coffee shop in Barkley Village (near Regal Cinema)

...and the *fourth Saturday* of the month at 11 am at the Public Market building on Cornwall Avenue, across from Arlis's Restaurant.

Has anyone been going to these coffees recently? Let's talk about changes, and whether the group should continue, at the September meeting.



Sept 3 — Margo Hammond

Sept. 12 — Catherine Chambers

Sept. 20 — Lila Brumback

BTC names AAUW scholarship recipient

Bellingham Technical College has named **Tara Doyle** to receive the Bellingham AAUW scholarship for 2015-2016. Tara is studying for her Administrative Assistant degree.

She writes that as a single mother of two children, she chose her field of study because she enjoys computer work, and there is a high demand for the skills she will learn. Doyle adds that one of her children has several medical issues, and she needs more than an entry-level salary in order to meet expenses.

She continues: "I have done much volunteering over the years... Sometimes all we need is a helping hand to kick start our confidence and drive!

"I am focused and determined and will get through this degree.... I will be going to school full time for the next couple years and have put into place a rock solid plan including a tentative class schedule, childcare with backups for emergencies, and study time as well."

Bellingham Branch, AAUW

P.O. Box 29862 Bellingham, WA
98228 www.aauw-wa.org

Executive Board 2015-2016

President

Susan Moen 360-778-2510

susanmoen@comcast.net

Program Chairs

Esther Golde 360-392-8418,

solidgolde@yahoo.com

Jo Pullen jopullenbham@gmail.com

Liz Wright 360-671-5518

lswrights@gmail.com

Co- Membership Chairs

Helene Berg-Kolin 360-392-8856

hbergkolin@gmail.com

Sue McDonald 360-325-2848

sue@openaccess.org

Treasurer

Hope Rollis 360-392-6862

hrollis@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jean Cox-Treverton

360-392-0043

jeancoxtreverton@ymail.com

Newsletter editor

Gwen Parker 360-933-4314

parker.gwen@comcast.net

President's Note

We are starting our 2015-2016 year with a wonderful program which features our TECH TREK girls. The Tech Trek Committee has been constantly delighted at the girls' abilities to interview with the committee, to write and to speak with passion and excitement. Please come to welcome the 8th Grade girls who went to TECH TREK, their parents and their teachers. Our speaker will be Sydney Cole, founder of Creators and Innovators Club for Girls - girls involved with robotics. These elements are mission driven for AAUW, and I am so delighted that we can sponsor both of these avenues for Girls in STEM careers.

This summer I have attended two State Board Meetings and can report that the State office is filled with strong leaders who keep the mission of AAUW alive. Many from Washington State attended the National Convention in San Diego and were happy to report that the National Office is dynamic and centered on keeping an energetic focus on the laws and bills coming out of the Congress on women's equal pay and women's issues. My friends who attended thought the convention was very worth their time and money. Let us aim to send five or more of us to National Convention in Washington DC in June 2017. This would be a real change-making goal for our branch.

Two of our branch goals are: increased stable membership and great, interesting programs. Please help us to increase our membership by 10% - which means 5 new members, by inviting your neighbors, new friends in town - or former AAUW members back to see our great renewed energy. My goal is to inject lots of fun and camaraderie into each meeting. See you on the 12th of September.

—Susan Moen



**Welcome to our newest members —
Mialee Jose and
Ann Armstrong!**

Upcoming Dates for AAUW:

Sept 22, 2015 - National Voter Registration Day
January 25, 2016 - Board of Directors Meeting
January 26, 2016 - Lobby Day
April 21-23, 2016 - AAUW State Convention,
Location TBD

“Write” address? If you need to reach Jo Pullen, please note that her email is slightly changed. It is now jopullenbham@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Two Bellingham Branch members have passed away recently. **Emma Conlee** died on August 9, 2015. She was 93. Also 93 when she passed on August 21 was **Joanne MacKay**.

Emma was graduated from Bellingham High School in 1940, attended Western Washington University for a time, and later returned to complete her undergraduate degree in 1957. She was a teacher, mostly of third grade, in the Bellingham Public Schools for nearly 40 years. She is survived by her daughter Carol Conlee Caughey (Donald) of Portland, Oregon, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was co-president of Bellingham Branch of AAUW from 1995 through 1997 and was active in several community organizations such as Whatcom Museum, St. James Presbyterian Church, Whatcom County Democrats and League of Women Voters.

A celebration of her life will be held at the Fellowship Hall of St. James Presbyterian Church in Bellingham on Saturday, September 19, at 4:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Emma Conlee Scholarship at Western Washington University Foundation, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Joanne, a longtime Bellingham resident, passed away on August 21st. She is survived by her son David and his wife Aileen of Bellingham, Barbara and Yogendra Gupta of Pullman, and Douglas and Mary MacKay of Edmonds, and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William MacKay.

She was graduated from Duke University in 1943 with a major in Economics and a minor in Psychology. According to information from *The Bellingham Herald*, she studied engineering at the University of Texas at Austin and then worked for Curtis-Wright Aircraft Company in St. Louis, where she designed windows for the C-46 aircraft until the end of World War II. She and her family moved to Bellingham in 1961, where she was active in Bellingham Branch of the American Association of University Women and served as Program Director and cookie chair for Bellingham Girl Scouts. Joanne helped establish the Bellingham Day Care Center (now Bellingham Care and Learning Center). Following her career in education, Joanne owned and operated Tony's Coffee Shop in Fairhaven from 1977 to 1987.

A private memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Duke University, Whatcom Hospice or Whatcom Humane Society.



**Be sure to attend
our October meeting!**

Guest speaker will be *Carolyn Koehnlne*, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Certified Journal Therapist, and Clutter Coach!

She will help us understand why it can be so hard to let go....