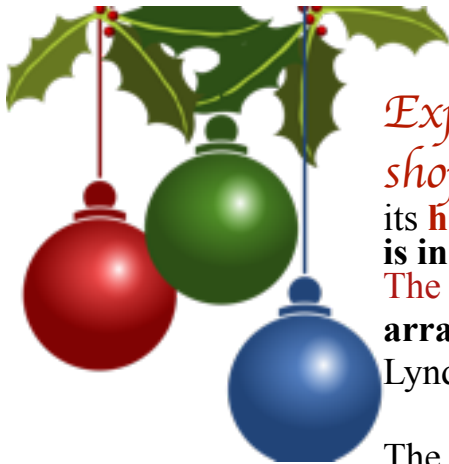


December meeting set at Jansen Art Center in Lynden



Expect music, a tour of the center and a chance to shop in the sales gallery when Bellingham AAUW holds its **holiday meeting at Jansen Art Center, Dec. 13**. The center is in the old Firehall, at 321 Front St. in Lynden. *The building is handicapped accessible. Carpooling will be arranged* for those members who would like to ride up to Lynden together. Contact Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., upstairs in the Chamber Hall. **Everyone is asked to bring their favorite holiday cookies, to munch on and exchange.** Coffee will be provided by JAC.

At about 10:15, a JAC docent will begin **a tour of the historic building.** The art center opened in 2012, but the 1920's era building began life as the Lynden City Hall and Firehall. When it was renovated to become the art center, many of the historic features were retained.

Regional artists exhibit and sell their original works at the Jansen Art Center. A Fine Arts Gallery and numerous gallery walls throughout the J provide great spaces to view a wide variety of art.

After the tour, AAUW members will be able to sip coffee and sample each other's cookies while listening to songs by Bellingham Branch member Robin Kagan. Robin is the vocalist with Paul Sorenson's SwingStreet Band.



- Also in this issue:**
- NWIC Scholarship recipients
 - A day in Canada with CFUW
 - January meeting plans
 - Interest groups
 - New Branch member
 - Report on Early Learning presentation
 - Community STEM meeting
 - Wreath sales results

WELA member brings compelling information to November meeting

by Gwen Parker

Could this be our next branch project?

The most memorable and poignant part of our November program on early learning was a short video of an experiment done with a baby and his mother: *At first, the video showed the mom and baby looking at each other and interacting - if the baby cooed, Mom praised him. If he reached for her, she took his hand. Then, the experimenters had mom keep a neutral face, and not respond at all to the baby's actions. In no time, the baby became distressed, looked away from his mother, and finally, cried.*

Just that simple video clip showed how important early interaction is for a baby.

Jessica Sankey, a health and early education consultant who works with WELA (Whatcom Early Learning Alliance) had many other telling charts and studies to stress how important it is for all children to have adequate parenting and educational support. She noted that about 400 children are born in Whatcom County each year who may not receive the individual attention and nurturing that they need.

She also pointed out that 90% of the babies born in the county are born at St. Joseph's Hospital. What is needed, the audience came to understand, is a way to offer support to any family that seems at risk.

Is a volunteer task force to provide a comprehensive continuum of teaching and learning throughout the early childhood, something we can do? Can we get a conversation going?



Mother-daughter team: Bellingham Branch member Pam Sankey, left, arranged to have her daughter, Jessica, present information on early learning at our November meeting.

Upcoming events

“**Exercise into the New Year**” is the theme for our January meeting, planned by Jo Pullen. The program will feature local experts who will get us moving, no matter what our age, and remind us of the importance of exercise. **Jan. 10** at the YWCA

On **Feb. 14**, Bellingham Branch will host a **panel discussion on the history of Title IX and its status now**. One panelist will be Linda Goodrich, retired chair of Women's Athletics at WWU. Catherine Chambers is planner for the meeting.



Celebrating with CFUW

Fun in White Rock/Surrey: Our Canadian sister club, White Rock/Surrey CFUW, rolled out the red carpet for us when seven Bellingham AAUW members attended their Bursary Luncheon in the White Rock Community Centre on November 1st. Bursaries of \$3,500 each were presented to Rana Hazarat, a UBC Faculty of Law student, and Jessica Morrice, a student in the UBC Faculty of Medicine. Both young women gave very articulate presentations. Newly appointed Regional Director BC West, Paula McLaughlin, made this event her first club visit. She attended WWU, and we invited her back for a visit. **Here, we pose in front of an art installation at the center. From left, Mary Jane Vetter, Jo Pullen, Jean Cox-Treverton, Gwen Parker, Susan Moen, Inge Paulus and Esther Golde.**



Ceremonial pitcher: CFUW President Trudy Handel presents our “traveling pitcher,” filled with chocolate, to Gwen Parker, Bellingham Branch president. (Photo by Lois Hunter)

NWIC scholarship recipients named

Desiree Pulido and Carlene Toby have been selected as the recipients of the AAUW-Bellingham “Empowering Women Scholarship.” Each receives \$500 for study at Northwest Indian College.

Desiree is completing five online classes with NWIC and is also enrolled at the Oregon Institute of Technology for the renewable energy engineering program.

Carlene is studying on the Lummi Reservation campus.



Welcome to a new member!

Marjorie Bushnell is our newest Bellingham Branch member. She holds a degree in journalism from Northwestern, and two degrees in Geology from Cal State.

Interest Groups

Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. **The November/December meeting will be Dec. 4.** The book is *A Strange Stirring*, by Stephanie Coontz (analysis of *The Feminine Mystique* and author Betty Friedan.) Reviewer will be Helene Berg-Kolin.

The **January 22 book** will be *The Girls of Atomic City*, by Denise Kieran. Reviewer will be Maggie Moore.

Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

New Group!! Coffee and Conversation

Will meet the *third Friday* of the month (Dec. 19) at 3 pm at The Woods Coffee shop in Barkley Village (near Regal Cinema)

...and the *fourth Saturday* of the month (Dec. 27) at 11 am at the Public Market building on Cornwall Avenue, across from Arlis's Restaurant.

PM Book Club

The Evening Book Group meets at 6:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. **The Dec. 11th book** is *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros. **The Jan. 8th book** will be *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*, by Masha Gessen.

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

Dames Who Dine

Currently on hiatus, but a few new diners would get this "on the table" again.



Happy Birthday
to

Marian Boylan - 8th

Varya Grace Fish - 9th

Gwen Parker - 19th

We're "wreathed" in smiles!

Despite a short sales window, Bellingham AAUW members have sold about 110 holiday wreaths. Good Going, Ladies!

Final figures, including some donations, are not in, but we stand to net about \$1350, which goes to providing local scholarships.



Out and about in Bellingham....

AAUW members attend “A Night Out for STEM in our Schools”

Thanks to **Kim Lund** and **Judi Edwards**, Bellingham AAUW members were alerted to a Nov. 12 program on STEM in the public schools. The large banquet room at Bellingham Golf and Country Club was filled with attendees, including **Mary LeDonne** and her husband, **Michael Jay**; **Margo Hammond**, **Susan Moen**, **Gwen Parker**, **Pam Sankey**, and **Carol Simmer**. Also in the audience were Susan’s daughter **Dr. Sara Mostad MD** and granddaughter **Elena**, and Pam’s daughter **Jessica Sankey**, who was our AAUW speaker in November. (See article, page 2).

Judi is a member of the Skagit AAUW



Judi Edwards

branch, and Kim is Executive Director of Bellingham Public School Foundation. She attended our September meeting on STEM education, along with our Tech Trek recipients.

The meeting was sponsored by TAG (Technology Alliance Group for Northwest Washington), the Bellingham Public



Kim Lund

School Foundation, Phillips 66 and Mindfly, to highlight the need for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math investments in our community.

Local school students had a variety of interesting displays working, for attendees to enjoy. They included a laser printer turning out personalized wooden boxes, a homemade 3D printer, a variety of robots, and much more.

Keynote speaker was **Dr. Andy Bunn**, founding director of the Institute for Energy Studies at WWU. (His wife, **Dr. Rebecca Bunn**, was our AAUW speaker in September.)



Dr. Rebecca Bunn

Among other speakers were two University of Washington students who were members of the Sehome High School robotics club. They testified to the value of the after-school club, saying that early exposure to science and engineering helped them define the path to their major fields. They stressed the importance of the club in helping them learn to work in teams





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2014-2015**

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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.



A note about year-end giving

*If you are planning gifting before the end of the year, please consider supporting **our scholarship funds**.*

The executive board would like to be able to keep or increase the amount we give to worthy women in our own local area. Checks can be mailed to AAUW Bellingham, PO Box 29682, Bellingham WA 98228.

If you are thinking about donating on **the national level**, here are two examples from AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman:

- **\$20** gives 50 students "Elect Her-Campus Women Win" training workbooks brimming with resources and advice they need to run for office and change the political landscape.
- **\$500** ensures that our weekly *Washington Update* continues to prepare members to act on policy issues affecting women and girls.

At either the local or national level,

- **\$1,000** supports a middle school girl at a weeklong Tech Trek camp, fueling their passion for science, technology, engineering, and math.

*Susan Moen, Co-Vice-President of Programs
Gwen Parker, Branch President*