

## Vanishing Ice tour scheduled at the Lightcatcher Museum

On January 11 we will have a docent tour of the *Vanishing Ice* Exhibit at the Lightcatcher, 250 Flora St. This is a natural follow-up to our meeting of September 2012, when Exhibit Curator Barbara Matilsky spoke to us about creating the exhibit. There is also a lecture following our meeting for people who want to expand their understanding of climate change.

Time is 10 a.m. Cost of the tour is \$6 apiece - even if you are a Whatcom Museum member. However, this is only a dollar more than what we pay when we meet at the YWCA, so this is not a big increase. The exhibit has already been



scheduled for other venues, including El Paso, Texas, and Ontario, Canada. *The Seattle Times* calls the exhibit catalog “superbly packaged,” comparing it favorably with recent catalogs from

## What a squeeze!

They say laughter decreases blood pressure, so AAUW members and friends who attended the December meeting at the Allied Arts Holiday Festival venue should be in pretty good health now. Plenty of giggles were produced by the “cozy” size of the room in which we shared cookies and coffee, and heard three speakers who are members of Allied Arts.



A delightful mix of topics kept the program interesting. First, our own **Jean Cox-Trevertan** showed samples of her paper craft - art books and unique cards - and gave us some insights on her creative process. In response to a question, she also said she can give classes, so we may learn more in the future!

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At left, Jean Cox-Trevertan shows one of her art books, while behind her, Carol Simmer and Esther Golde examine another book. Liz Wright looks on.

### Allied Arts members have varied products

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Next, **Lena Shammel** distributed samples of her locally made *Chia Girl* brand of fruit spreads. She explained the health benefits of the low-sugar product, and opened our eyes to the fact that Chia seeds are for more than growing little green pets. For example, runners use Chia to help them stay hydrated, and in the case of the jam, it replaces pectin and allows for a tasty product with less sugar than regular jams. It is also high in protein and Omega 3's.



Lena Shammel shows off her *Chia Girl* fruit spread.

Last, **Iain Davidson** talked about several facets of his persona: Assistant Manager of the Holiday Art Festival, technician with Computers for Kids, and also budding artist. He showed us several



Iain Davidson talks about his metal sculpture. Check out the holiday nail polish!

prototypes of metal sculptures he is developing, using left over computer parts. The parts come from the Computers 4 Kids effort, done in conjunction with Haywire Computers. Persons can drop off any old computing equipment at their store, and volunteers tear things apart and rebuild working computers for kids who need, but can't afford to buy, them.

### Interest Groups

#### Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham. Next meeting will be Jan 23. Book is *Planes, Trains and Auto-Rickshaws*, by Laura Pedersen. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

#### Dames Who Dine

Contact: Lori Smiley 360-739-1379 for time and place.

#### 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. The January 9 book is *You know when the Men Are Gone*, by Siobhan Fallon. We welcome all comers - please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526

#### Simplicity Circle

Mary LeDonne will host the next meeting at her home Jan. 20, at 7:00 pm. The address is 1760 Waterside Lane Bellingham 98229

*Watch the next newsletter...*

for more information on the February meeting:

Pay Equity Program and Panel at Whatcom Community College

January Birthdays

- 7 Jane Morgan
- 9 Pat Banasky
- 19 Mary LeDonne
- 22 Sandra Randall



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**You are 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.

Please join us!

## Happy New Year!

Earlier today I received an emailed letter from Lisa Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations. It evidently went to all AAUW members who utilize the Action Network, the automated system that lets us send letters to our legislators regarding public policy issues in which AAUW has an interest. The letter began:

*“As 2013 draws to a close, we take a moment to thank you, our AAUW Action Network members, for your outstanding efforts to advance our shared mission. Your advocacy and [financial support](#) have helped AAUW influence public policy and implement successful and exciting grassroots advocacy efforts throughout 2013.”*

Attached to the letter is a long, exhaustive list of issues where AAUW has had an important part. Just a few: “AAUW helped lead the fight for passage of the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#). AAUW members played a significant role by personally visiting congressional offices and sending thousands of messages to Congress. Without AAUW, campus sexual assault measures would have been overlooked in the legislation that became law.

*“Because of AAUW members’ stalwart advocacy for pay equity, AAUW was invited to stand with President Barack Obama at the White House ceremony commemorating the [50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act](#).*

*As state lawmakers and courts threatened to roll back voting rights protections, AAUW members across the country mobilized at colleges, community events, and other public spaces to register people to vote during [National Voter Registration Day 2013](#)”.*

**This reminds us that each voice does count. I hope you will begin - or continue - to use the AAUW Action Network to make your thoughts known. We have work to do at the local level to fund the scholarships we give, and to advocate for equity, but we can also look beyond the county line to affect the national discourse.**

***Gwen Parker, President, Bellingham Branch of AAUW***



## Membership Matters

Now is a great time to recruit new members, because of the current “half-off” deal on national dues. Memberships submitted between Jan. 1 and March 15, 2014, get a discounted rate of \$24.50. The offer applies to the current 2013-2014 fiscal year, so the membership will expire June 30.

For more information contact Helene Berg-Kolin ([hbergkolin@gmail.com](mailto:hbergkolin@gmail.com)) or Liz Wright ([lswrights@gmail.com](mailto:lswrights@gmail.com)).