

*Come see our tree!*

**December 10th meeting  
to be held at Old City Hall  
Start time: 10 a.m.  
at 121 Prospect St.**



The Christmas tree our Branch volunteers decorated for the Whatcom Museum holiday display looks great! Our December meeting starts with a viewing of “our” tree and about 20 others, and all the decorations at Old City Hall. Then, we’ll enjoy our own coffee and cookies in the board room (second floor). **All members are encouraged to bring enough cookies to both eat and exchange.** Those interested will then trek over (one block) to the Lightcatcher Museum to take in the fabulous exhibits there.



Bellingham AAUW member Pam Sankey, next to her husband Eric, along with members Esther Golde and Susan Moen, pose with the Branch’s tree, during the Whatcom Museum Holiday Kick-off cocktail party, Dec. 2. The tree is decorated with a STEM theme, honoring women in math and science, and spotlighting our AAUW emphasis on STEM education for girls and women.



At left, some of Bellingham Branch’s handmade decorations for our STEM-themed tree. Featured here is Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, USN, first programmer of Harvard Mark I computer.

Entry to the Lightcatcher is \$10, but Gwen and Esther each have a few guest passes, first come, first served! (continued, page 2)

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## Where to park for the December meeting

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There is some parking in the lot at the museum's Old City Hall building, where we begin our meeting. Those who have trouble negotiating a lot of stairs are advised to enter from the back side of the building (facing the Bay). There are a few stairs to go down, but you will have close access to the elevator. We will meet for coffee and cookies in the second floor board room. The front entry also will be open, and you can consider parking near the Lightcatcher Building, where we will end our event.



This ornament on our "STEM tree" features local Astrophysicist Melissa Rice, who participates on NASA's Mars' Curiosity Rover team.

## *Shape the Future membership campaign*

### **Attention Members!**

*Here is some important information to know if you are encouraging people to join us.*

The Shape the Future membership campaign is a recruitment tool for current members to

offer a discounted rate to prospective members. With this campaign, **new members**



**and students can take 50 percent off**

**the national and state dues rates when they join on the spot during an AAUW public event.**

Branches also earn one free national membership to give away for every two newly recruited members, with a maximum of five free memberships annually.

**Bellingham has also extended the offer to include local dues so that means a person can join at a meeting or event for \$35.00.** We have added several new members recently with this 50% off offer.

Contact Liz or Helene for more information.

**Help Recruit New Members for Your Branch!**

## Holiday Greenery Sale— Final tally ...and results of a challenge



**Wow!**

**Our holiday greenery fund-raiser was a big success!** We raised **over \$2500** — \$700 more than last year, and the most we have made in the past five years for which I have records. As co-chair of this year's sale, I give my **heartfelt thanks** to everyone who participated, whether it was buying, selling, delivering, helping with publicity, making donations, or a combination of those tasks. Special thanks goes to my counterpart, Hope Rollis, who kept me (more or less) sane when we were trying to be sure we ordered the right number of items, and helped on distribution day.

Thanks also to Susan Moen's daughter, Sara, for letting us use her home as our base of operations for deliveries. Another thanks to Robin Kagan and Sue McDonald, who both "took one for the team" by agreeing to change their orders so we would have enough products to go around.

### **And, announcing the winners:**

Branch President Susan Moen issued a challenge during the sale, saying she would make dinner for everyone who sold more than seven items. Those super-salespersons are **Sommer Cronck, Elsie Heinrick, Sue McDonald, Teizeen Mohamedali, Gwen Parker, Carol Simmer, Liz Wright, and Susan Moen herself.** We're waiting to hear what's for dinner, Susan!

—Gwen Parker

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Because of all the busy-ness and merriment of the holiday season, we will not attempt to include a meeting of the **REEL MOVIE LOVERS** on your December calendar. Hopefully, you will be able to get away with your family and friends to see one of the entertaining holiday movies playing in the theaters.

We should plan to resume the movie get-together in January, meeting, as before, for a matinee on the third Sunday of the month. Liz Wright will be out of town from January through March, so we are looking for someone to take her place for those months. The job entails sending out an email to members on the Wednesday prior to the movie viewing, which is when the theaters have an updated schedule for the coming weekend. After members respond with their preferences, another email is sent out on the Friday or Saturday before the movie showing. If you are interested in taking this on, contact Liz for more details, 360-671-5518.

**ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB** meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. The January meeting will be January 26th, and the book will be *Fairhaven, A History*, by local author Brian Griffin. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

### **SOMETHING NEW?**

Issaquah has a Bunch for Lunch - or we could do an occasional craft - lets talk about this...Contact: Susan Moen, 360-773-2510..

## 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.

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## New and returning members!

Bellingham Branch of AAUW welcomes new members Judith Entwife, Susan Quart and Shevell Thibou.

And, we welcome back Louise Bjornson, a longtime member who was not on our roster for a few months.

We are glad to have you!

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## Do you have your handbook?

The 2016-2017 Bellingham AAUW membership handbooks will be available at the December meeting at Whatcom Museum's Old City Hall Building. Any members who have not been able to pick them up in person will find them in their mailbox sometime after the meeting. Thanks again to Esther Golde for updating the booklets and having them printed.

## Bellingham Branch, AAUW

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### Support and empowerment -

In the wake of the controversial Presidential election, speakers at our November meeting discarded the presentation they had planned, and organized talking circles



**Above:** Shevell Thibou, Maggie Moore and Jean Cox-Treverton discuss election results. **At right:** Susan Moen and Esther Golde present Peace roses to speakers Mialee Jose, Director of the Stir Center, and Shevell Thibou, Director of the Teaching and Learning Academy at WWU.



where members and guests could discuss their reactions to the election, and what actions they might take, moving forward.

In reporting out, the small discussion groups almost universally said they were frightened for the future of our nation. Many said they are willing to listen to opposing viewpoints, and vowed to speak up in defense of their own views, rather than remain politely silent.

Thank you, Mialee and Shevell, for your wise decision to switch gears!



**The three faces visible in this talking circle are Karen Gantenbein, left, Liz Wright and Esther Golde.**



**Mix it Up at Western:** From left, Bellingham AAUW members Esther Golde, Carol Simmer and Julia Earnest stand ready to answer questions at a WWU open house. Catherine Chambers also assisted. Called "Mix It Up: Faces of STEM," the event was sponsored by WWU chapters of Association of Women in Computing, Chemistry Club, Physics Club, Women in Physics, and Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. There were speakers, chances for networking, free food and lots of information.

## Hospitality Personality?

Bellingham Branch is looking for a member who would enjoy organizing table decorations, coffee and refreshments for our meetings. We always share in providing snacks, but could use someone to oversee the process. This could easily be a committee, if several people are interested. For more info, please contact Branch President Susan Moen.



## Happy December Birthday!

- 8 Marian Boylan
- 9 Varya Grace Fish
- 12 Carol Lawrence
- 19 Gwen Parker
- 27 Nora Abelite