

AAUW Bellingham

Officer elections set for March meeting



Annual Business Meeting
March 9
10 a.m to noon
YWCA -- 1026 N. Forest Street
Only members may vote
All are welcome to attend

Last names A through L please bring snacks!

Be sure to attend our annual business meeting. This year, we vote to fill the following positions: President, Program Chair and Secretary. Thus far, our candidates are:

President, Gwen Parker

Program Co-Chairs, Susan Moen and Pam Sankey

Secretary --Open

Nominations may be made from the floor, if the nominee has agreed beforehand.

Our branch is a vital part of Bellingham. Think of the scholarships we offer to higher educational institutions in Whatcom County. Also, we work closely with the League of Women Voters, we support the Tech Trek STEM enrichment program, we honor High School Scholars, and we assist with Girls Go Tech. We support AAUW's mission for equity and freedom for girls and women in education, business, politics, and reproductive rights. Vote if you are a member. Join if you aren't. Keep our branch strong and thriving. Attend. Vote.

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State Co-President Kelvie Comer shows Tech Trek brochure at January meeting in Bellingham.

State president visits

by Sue McDonald

Washington State Co-President Kelvie Comer left no doubt about the importance of our mission to support women's equity when she spoke at our January meeting. Kelvie's presentation demonstrated the depth and breadth of our mission-guided programs at national, state and local levels.

Kelvie summarized AAUW leadership programs that give women and girls skills for academic, professional and personal life. Programs include Campus Action Program, Elect Her,

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Powerful speakers energize WWU students at AAUW-sponsored “Elect Her” conference on campus

by Susan Moen
Bellingham Branch Co-president

WWU Associated Students presented the day-long seminar "Elect Her" for the third consecutive year, Feb. 23 on the Western campus.. Western President Bruce Shepard and his wife Cyndie were opening speakers, followed by Bellingham Branch past president Carol Simmer and me.



Bellingham AAUW members Carol Simmer, left, and Cyndie Shepard support “Elect Her” program.

Carol and I gave welcoming comments, telling of the power and range of AAUW history, endowments and programs for colleges, such as “Start Smart” for new employees in the work force.

Suzan DelBene, our US Representative for Congressional District 1, was the keynote speaker.

According to the panel of former Elect Her members, the seminar works: All the panelists are current or past Student Officers at Western. It was moving to hear how the seminar made a difference. We support proactive and powerful programs with our membership and our donations.

This is an event sponsored by AAUW and Running Start. Katie Storey from Washington DC was the facilitator, well versed in presenting these seminars across the nation. She was very pleased with the energy, participation and outcome of the event.



Suzan DelBene, center, Washington District 1 Representative to the US Congress, poses with some of the WWU students who attended the “Elect Her” conference.

Greetings from our own Alaskan adventurer

Sherry Thompson took a leave of absence from us in the fall to accept a job working in the Alaskan school system's English Language Learner program. She writes us the following note, to accompany some photos that she sent:

"It has been a whirlwind experience of learning. For starters I had to start using a MacBook Pro, then learn how to do some spread sheets and input data. Then there have been five or six language tests that I had to become familiar with and all of this had to happen fast. This school district connects all its 15 villages with a lot of technology, so soon I was giving lessons via video conferencing and boy, my brain was stuffed. I have been sent into Anchorage three different times for more training and only now in month seven of my contract do I feel I really have the foundation on which to start hanging all this information. What a learning curve!

I've enjoyed living once again in a small village. The community is made up of the school, clinic, two stores, post office and community center - that's about it. Most of the social events happen at the K-12 Unalakleet school and center around sports: volleyball, basketball, wrestling etc. I do some volunteer work just to be involved. Most of my time is spent traveling out to the villages teaching and testing for language proficiency. The three language groups in our area are: Iputiaq, Yupik, and Siberian Yupik. My villages are: Brevig Mission, Elim, Golovin, Gambell, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Stebbins, St. Michael, Savoonga, Teller, White Mountain, Unalakleet, Little Diomed and Wales. Little Diomed is the furthest west school in the US.

The weather up here is brutal. Today I'm in St. Michael and it is 35 below zero here.

My best to all of you and I will see you this summer when I return. I do read and enjoy all the AAUW notes and newsletters forwarded to me.



Sherry with some of the Alaskan students. She does not have a classroom of her own, but spends most of her time traveling between 15 villages, teaching and testing.



This one of Sherry in a blue coat was taken at noon on the shortest day of the year - about 4 and 1/2 hours.

Take a look at the new Bellingham Branch Web site!

by Gwen Parker

I recently collaborated with national AAUW personnel to mount a new Web page for our branch.

Our goal was to get the site running quickly, so there is room for improvement and additional information, and I hope all you computer users will browse through the pages and make suggestions. We use standard drop-down menus, and national will keep their links updated. Check it out at <http://bellingham-wa.aauw.net/>

We are limiting the amount of personal information that is made available in this public forum, and plan to use a new gmail account to allow interested persons to contact us through the Web site.



The “Members Only” section contains our roster, with addresses and phone numbers, and also snapshots of many of our members. (I’ll add more as I get more photos.) This section is password protected, and I will furnish the password at our next meeting.

I still have to learn how to maintain and update the pages, but Web Designer Megan Morrison, the person I worked with to develop the site, has graciously assured me that she will help whenever I have problems. If we wish, we can have the national staff do the updating, for a small fee.

I have personalized the home page with a photo of our local icon, Mt. Baker. If anyone has photos they think would enhance the pages, please send them along!

“Crossing the Line” Talk at the United Nations

LAF Program Manager Holly Kearn, co-author of AAUW’s 2011 report, [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#), will speak about sexual harassment in schools during the 2013 United Nations [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW). The theme this year is Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls, and the panels are held in venues near the United Nations over the two weeks of the CSW meetings. The AAUW panel will take place during the parallel events for nonprofit organizations. Kearn will talk about AAUW’s findings and recommendations, and three high school students will join her to share their experiences.

The event is open to the public, and AAUW members are welcome to attend: March 6, 2013, 2:30–4 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 221 East 52nd Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues), New York, New York.

Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation to LAF](#) to help balance the scales of justice for women.

(taken from the national AAUW Web site)

Save The Date!

Wine-Tasting Fundraiser

2 - 5 p.m.

June 8th

Samson Estates Winery
Everson

Get your friends to mark their calendars, too!

YOU ARE WELCOME

Our 60 members strong Bellingham AAUW branch offers scholarships to local area institutes of higher learning: WWU, WCC, and BTC. Throughout the year, we support local programs and events which help women and girls gain equity in all areas of life.

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

Ask us what we do at local, state, and national levels to advance equity for women and girls.

**We support equity for
women and girls
in all endeavors.**

AAUW BELLINGHAM EXECUTIVE BOARD 2012-2013

P.O. Box 29862 Bellingham WA 98228
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Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Sue McDonald
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Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in downtown Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month. March book: *None of the Three* by local author Marian Beddill. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314

PM Book Club

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

Mar - Myra MacPherson, *All Governments Lie!*

Apr - Steven Galloway, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*

Please join us.

Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526

Women Who Walk & Wine

Walk on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm..
Locations vary.

Contact: Cindi Paffumi 360-738-2971
or cpaffumi@comcast.net

Dames Who Dine

Contact: Lori Smiley 360-739-1379

Women's Discussion Group

AAUW Women's Discussion Group -
Tuesday, March 19, 7-9p.m.
Topic is Health & Wellness. Location:
3104 Vallette Street.
Questions will be emailed the week
before the meeting.
RSVP & info: Helene -
hbergkolin@gmail.com or 392-8856.

AAUW state co-president speaks at February meeting

(cont. from page 1)

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), Campus Action Program, Start Smart, the Student Advisory Council and Tech Trek. In addition, the AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate and post-graduate women.

The Campus Action Program (CAP) enables student leaders and campus faculty to design and implement effective programs which enhance campus offerings, promote leadership and improve academic and career outcomes. Through an annual Fall application process, about ten teams composed of students and a campus professional are selected at colleges and universities around the country to implement their project proposal on a specific topic. Grants range from \$1000 to \$5000. Additionally, a member from each team will be funded to report on the project at the annual **NCCWSL** conference in Washington, DC. A previous WWU attendee, Maggie Fuqua, speaks glowingly of her NCCWSL experience.

An **Elect Her** session was held Feb. 23 at WWU. (See related article on page 2.)

Start Smart, part of the WAGE Project, works with junior and senior college women to end economic discrimination, by showing them the benchmark salary level of their chosen career field, and teaching salary negotiation skills. Kelvie explained that many young women are economically adrift as they start their professional careers. They haven't been taught how to assert themselves in a knowledgeable way in seeking a salary equitable to their male counterparts.

Kelvie spotlighted **Tech Trek**, a week-long residential camp at a college or university campus for teacher-selected 8th grade girls. These "rising star" girls are introduced to STEM careers fields.

Tech Trek has been in operation in California for 15 years. "It has received remarkable evaluations," Kelvie said. The program is expanding into Washington State this year, with 60 beds reserved for girls at Pacific Lutheran University this

summer. How important is this AAUW program? By seventh and eighth grades, girls begin to self-select out of STEM classes and careers. By the end of middle school, those girls who haven't begun STEM classes have little chance of reentering the STEM arena.



A festive table for Valentine month

Photo by Carol Simmer

Guests at the meeting included Terry Thayer from Bellingham Technical College and Mary Vermillion from Whatcom Community College. Terry works with an outreach program to assist women students to find non-traditional careers. Mary oversees a grant program which works somewhat like a Fullbright grant, to bring foreign students to WCC.

Kelvie also talked about building membership. How do we attract new members? This is THE question for AAUW, Kelvie insists. We've added several new members in the last year. Kelvie is heartened by our membership gains, but we can't stop now. How do we built upon our success? How do we find "The Right Women with the Right Stuff" for AAUW Bellingham? Kelvie had some great ideas. One suggestion: Since we give scholarships, why not invite the recipients' mothers into AAUW? Kelvie calls this "streaming". We work with schools and colleges. Why not invite a few female staff members to a coffee or lunch? Kelvie calls this "seed planting".

AAUW Executive Meeting
Minutes
January 29, 2013
4:00 p.m. Bellingham, WA

The meeting was held at the new home of co-president, Susan Moen, who called the meeting to order. Members present were Helene Berg-Kolin, Sharlene Joshua, Sue McDonald, Gwen Parker, and Carol Simmer.

Secretary: Sharlene Joshua emailed the minutes of the November meeting to the board members. The minutes were approved as sent.

Treasurer: Sue McDonald reported that the branch has \$7,169.10 in the checking account. \$200 of that is money from the wreath sale that was turned in late. The wreath sale earned \$1400.00 in profit.

Program: Nineteen women attended the Mt Baker Theater Tour that took the place of our regular January branch meeting. The next meeting on February 9th will feature State AAUW President, Kelvie Comer. Her presentation will be about AAUW and is titled "A Force for Women and Girls". Guests from local colleges have been invited to attend and Carol will make arrangements for a no host lunch afterwards. Gwen is bringing coffee, Sue quiche, Susan fruit, Helene cheese and crackers and Sharlene will bring sweets to the meeting. Sue and Gwen will work on decorations with a Valentine theme.

Book sales are scheduled to start again in February. Kelsey Langille offered to staff the table and take the books to a used bookstore afterwards.

Newsletter: The January newsletter has gone out. The board and members are encouraged to send in articles and items of interest for inclusion in the newsletter.

Tech Trek: Putting the Bellingham Branch name on a grant proposal to Whatcom Community Foundation for funds to send girls from Whatcom County to the Washington State AAUW Tech Trek event was discussed. It was moved and seconded that the board approve the use of our name on the grant proposal. The motion passed. Board member, Brenda Karasik, informed the board via email that she will abstain from this vote because she is on the board of the WCF.

High School Scholars: Last year the board discussed inviting counselors and/or teachers to the event in hopes that it would insure attendance by the girls being honored. 3 girls are invited from each school. That is a total of 36 girls with family, counselors, or both also attending. Brenda's perspective from the podium last year was that the girls were not as excited by the program as the rest of the audience. It was suggested that we ask the school counselors to share their thoughts on what the girls would like. How can we give the event more "zing"?

Carol Simmer and Sharlene Joshua agreed to be co-chairs for the event this year.

NCCWSL: The board discussed the desire to send a Whatcom County representative to the next student leader conference. Carol will speak with the new dean of the college of science and technology at WWU to see if he is interested in partnering

with AAUW to send a student to the conference. The other schools could be asked if they are interested as well. It was moved and seconded to designate \$500.00 toward a NCCWSL scholarship. The motion passed.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser: The committee decided on Samson's Winery for the branch's second wine tasting event. It will be held on June 8th from 2-5 P.M. with several tours of the winery available to attendees.

Branch Website: Gwen handed out a website outline for the board to consider. She is not sure just when it will be up and running. If someone sends an email, Susan, Helene and Gwen will all receive a copy.

University Relations: The agreement with NWIC is still in the process of being written up by the committee.

Education Fund: After some discussion it, was moved that the branch send a donation of \$500 to the National Education Fund. The motion was seconded and passed.

Annual Business Meeting: A chair for the nominating committee is needed. Nominees for the positions of co-president, vice president of programs, and secretary are needed before the meeting on March 9th. Susan Moen will be out of town for the meeting, so Gwen will run the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Sharlene Joshua, branch secretary



AAUW Funds Benefit

Women of History Dinner

Dinner for Eight
Saturday, March 23rd, 2013
6:30 pm
At Susan Moen's home
4949 Samish Way, #3

We will prepare and serve an historical themed candlelight dinner for eight women in honor of Women of History Month.

Come as a female historical figure and be prepared to tell about your place in history. With eight women, a 5 to 7 minute talk is a good measure. For extra fun, dress your part!

Cost for Dinner and Wine: \$40

Please call either Susan or Sue for directions and to reserve your place at the table.

*Susan Moen
360-778-2510*

*Sue McDonald
360-325-2848*