



January 9th meeting  
to feature  
Greg Winter

*Members whose last names begin with A through M — you're on the hook to provide some finger foods to go with coffee and tea for our first meeting of the year, Saturday , 10 a.m. at the YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St.*

*But imagine if you didn't have an oven to bake cookies, or money to buy some fruit from the grocery... imagine if you didn't even have a roof over your head in this January weather.....*

That's what we'll be asked to think about when our guest speakers discuss **"Homelessness in Whatcom County."** Greg Winter, new Director of the Opportunity Council and Kate Robertson, Team Leader of the Homeless Outreach Team, will describe programs within the Opportunity Council that address this local challenge.

*Holiday party.....*



A Lesson in making glass art — and lemonade

*At left is a shard of broken glass. There's a lesson attached:*

Our Bellingham Branch holiday party was held at the Morrison Glass Art studio. Owner Christopher Morrison and his assistant, Lindsey Allen, demonstrated the making of a glass vase, first gathering the glass, then shaping it, then opening the top — all the while,  
*(Cont. on Page 2)*



## Art glass lessons

(Cont. from page 1)

moving the molten glass in and out of the furnace. Then, SMASH!! on one of its last trips into the fire, the vase breaks free and falls to the concrete floor.

*This is where the lesson comes in:* Morrison, without missing a beat, reconnects the largest shard of glass to the rod, and thrusts it into the furnace. What would have been a perfectly rounded vase becomes a free-form art piece, reshaped with the heat and a few deft maneuvers with shaping tools. So the lemon becomes lemonade, and no tears are shed over spilt glass.

Another little lesson: a shard of the hot glass that had been red-orange in color quickly cools to a blue and green striped pattern. When placed on the cool steel table, the shard spits tiny bits of glass into the air. This is why a finished piece is always moved quickly to a hot oven where it cools slowly over many hours.

Morrison has about 18 Western Washington University students who study glassblowing with him as an elective.

After the demonstration, members shopped, mulled over which cookies to choose in our annual cookie exchange, and sang Christmas carols, led by member Robin Kagan. (See one more photo, Page 6.)



**Christopher Morrison and Lindsey Allen in the hot shop.**

## Looking forward, looking back

by Gwen Parker, newsletter editor

*The holiday season is usually a time when we can focus on our oven timer instead of our appointment book, and our schedules revolve around getting gifts wrapped and being on time for Christmas dinner. It can be hard to come out of that little cocoon, but there are benefits, too!*

One of those benefits is building friendships through AAUW. Come to our meetings, learn something from our programs, visit with other members, and join in on some of our projects. Before you know it, there will be the “Elect Her” program on Western’s campus, our Branch elections will be upon us, then High School Scholars Day, and possibly a fund-raising event. We can be proud of our accomplishments last year....sending seven girls to Tech Trek, supporting Girls Go Tech at Whatcom Community College, holding our wine-tasting and greenery sale fundraisers, and giving scholarships at all four local colleges. Nationally, AAUW has much to be proud of also. Here is a little excerpt from the AAUW Action Network — and this is just a small sample:

- **Over 250,000 emails were sent by Action Network members to their legislators,** both statewide and nationally. Your online advocacy efforts amplified AAUW’s voice far and wide and across the nation. **Each Thursday, when the AAUW Action Fund's Lobby Corps hits Capitol Hill, they are able to show members of Congress how many of their constituents are AAUW activists.** Our Action Network was a critical force in furthering our public policy priorities in the states and in Congress in 2015!
- **AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps made over 1,300 visits to senators and members of Congress on issues important to women and families.** Lobby Corps members were toasted by U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) in recognition of the corps’ 40 years of citizen lobbying.
- **New Title IX coordinator materials were released this year! After several years of advocating, AAUW realized a huge victory when the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights published the first-ever official tools for Title IX coordinators.** These free resources, including a guidance letter and manual, reinforce the authority of Title IX coordinators and supports their work. AAUW was specifically mentioned in press, from *Politico* to *Huffington Post* and *Inside Higher Ed*.

It is easy to push the Action Network emails aside, but as you can see, our responses to them can - and do — affect national policy. Our strength is in our numbers - not to mention our common sense!

### Honoring a Past President

One of my Christmas gifts this year was a donation to Bellingham Branch from my friend Britt Lee. It was given in honor of her sister, **Catherine May**, who was Branch president from 1949 to 1951. Thank you, Britt Marie!

## Interest Groups

**Adelante! Book Club** meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday. The January 28th book will be a mystery novel, *Believing the Lie*, by Elizabeth George. The February book will be *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

**"The Bookies"** meet at 6:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. The January 14th book is *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Aiche. We welcome all comers - please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526.

**Reel Movie Lovers** meet for a matinee on the third Sunday of each month. Bellingham Branch members will be notified of the exact movie, time, and location for the January 17 get-together in an email the week before the showing. Save the date if you are interested, and feel free to offer suggestions on something you would like to see. **(Anyone not wishing to receive email information about the movies, please email Gwen Parker to opt out.)**

**Dames Who Dine**, anyone? This group has fallen by the wayside, but the board would love to see a few members revive it. It was a monthly evening meal, meant to give members a chance to sample a variety of cuisines. Call your friends???

### **Not AAUW sponsored, but sounds like fun!**

*Branch member Liz Wright is enjoying this class, and sends in the following:*


*Do you want to have fun and learn something new while putting your musical talents to use? **Join the fun of experiencing the joyous music of Zimbabwe, Southeast Africa on marimba (beautiful wooden-key xylophones), hosho (dried gourd shakers) and singing at Ruvara Marimba Studio. If you have a strong musical background, can pick up syncopated rhythms easily and an ear for melody, you'll love this!***

**Get in touch with teacher Nancy Steele for a free introductory lesson. Students meet weekly to play together and have lots of fun!**

*Email Liz Wright with your questions, [lswrights@gmail.com](mailto:lswrights@gmail.com), or contact the teacher directly: Nancy Steele, [nancy@ruvara.org](mailto:nancy@ruvara.org), [www.ruvara.org](http://www.ruvara.org), 360-920-6494.*

### **Have you turned in those checks?**

Treasurer Hope Rollis says there are still some wreath payment checks outstanding. Please check to see if they are hiding in your handbag! Maybe bring them to the Saturday meeting?



*January*

*7th Jane Morgan*

*9th Pat Banasky*

*19th Mary LeDonne*

*22nd Sandy Randall*

**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.

**Around the State:**

**2016 Convention and Lobby Day**

AAUW-WA Lobby Day and Board Meeting –  
 Lacey Community Center,  
6729 Pacific Ave Se, Lacey, WA 98503  
 (360) 491-0857

Board Meeting, Sunday, January 24

**Lobby Day, Monday, January 25**

Come join us for the board meeting at the community center on Sunday and enjoy a nice evening with your AAUW fellow members at the Best Western in Lacey. Surely guaranteed to get you ready for Lobby Day on Monday.

AAUW-WA Convention 2016, April 22-24,  
 Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, 15347  
Suquamish Way Ne, Suquamish, WA 98392  
 (360) 598-8700

The convention rate for the rooms at the Clearwater Resort has a drop dead date of March 21, 2016. Call 1-360-598-8700; ask for Reservations; book under AAUW-WA. Rooms are available at the AAUW rate Thurs., April 21 to Sun., April 24. Rooms are \$115-135, plus tax, depending on the view. Call to reserve your place soon so you won't be left out.

April 22 Board Meeting, Training, Reception/ Dinner, and Opening Evening

April 23 Convention, Annual Meeting and Elections, and Leadership Development

April 24 Convention over by noon

What a beautiful venue; bring a friend or family and make a time of it.



At the Morrison Glass studio, December 12th: Some of the members in attendance enjoy snacks and sing Christmas carols, while also admiring the variety of glass pieces on display. From left, Pam Sankey, Jean Cox-Trevertton, Catherine Chambers, Lila Brumback, Kathy Grant, Maggie Moore, Linda Doninno, Liz Wright and Helene Berg-Kolin.

## Bellingham Branch, AAUW

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