



Members put the “Fun” in Fundraiser at summer celebration

Bellingham AAUW garnered over \$2400 at our 99th birthday party, and everyone had fun doing it.

Together with an additional \$330 in donations, mostly from persons “overpaying” their dues, the branch has enough money to continue the four college scholarships we currently fund, with money left over for Tech Trek stipends.

The champagne luncheon was held June 10 at Northern Meadows Estates Clubhouse, and featured good food, good music, and some interesting raffle and auction items, such as a Mystery Writer Dinner, tickets for jazz concerts, and certificates for house cleaning and teeth whitening.

Nearly 20 members volunteered to help with the event, and special thanks go to:

Core Team: Judith Entwife (and family), Catherine Chambers, Jo Pullen, Nancy Lord, Susan Moen, Liz Wright

Food and Beverages: Core Team, and Carol Simmer

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Champagne celebration members and guests:
Foreground, from left, guest Mona Haines, Judith Entwife, Judi Edwards and George Edwards.
Background, Liz Wright, Susan Gelhar, Hope Rollis, Nancy Lord, Robin Kagan and Sharon Morris.

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.

Fundraiser

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Publicity/Financial Help:

Helene Berg-Kolin

Graphic Design: Gwen Parker, Esther Golde

Music: Susan Moen, Jo Pullen

Bartender: Hope Rollis

Event Help: Carol Simmer, Kathryn Grant, Robin Kagan

Donations: Judith Entwife and Nancy Lord for community donations, as well as the members who donated their personal artwork, parties and dinners, put together enticing gift baskets, and dug out their treasures from home!

Submitted by Liz Wright



Enjoying the music: From left, Rosemary Hostetler, Elsie Heinrick, Inge Paulus and Suzanne Thorp. In the background, Catherine Chambers and Esther Golde. (Lady in cream sweater is unnamed.)

New officers installed at potluck picnic

About 20 members attended a potluck picnic July 18, as guests of outgoing Bellingham Branch President Susan Moen.

New officers include:

President: Judith Entwife

Membership Chair: Susan Moen

Program Co-chairs: Catherine Chambers, Robin Kagan and Joanne Pullen

Officers continuing for another year in their positions are:

Helene Berg-Kolin, Treasurer;

Jean Cox-Treverton, Secretary,

and Gwen Parker, Newsletter and Website Editor.



Installation Day: In foreground, from left, Jo Pullen, Karen Gantenbein and Kathryn Grant listen to proceedings, as new officers are installed.

Celebrating 100 years of service

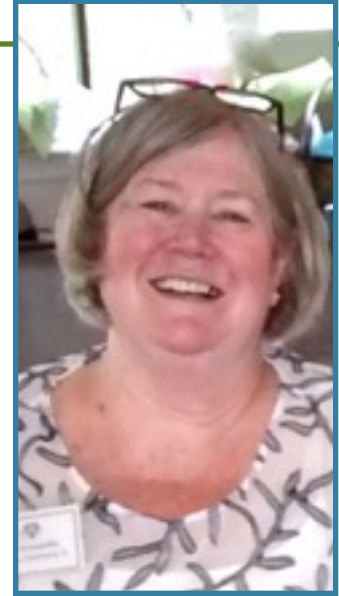
by Judith Entwife, Bellingham AAUW President

As we prepare to celebrate our 100th year in Bellingham, our local branch of the American Association of University Women renews its commitment to our founding goals: offering college graduates the opportunity for service and continuing educational programs.

In September, 1918, Bellingham women college graduates organized to get things done for women. During the next 100 years, we have turned that good idea into real progress for women. We began by contributing money to Marie Curie's research in the Twenties. We went on to support legislation to allow doctors to give out contraceptive information in the Thirties. In the Forties, we were early supporters of the UN. Then, in the Fifties, we backed legislation for pay equity for women and, in the Sixties, worked for passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. In the Seventies, it was Title IX. The Eighties saw our Legal Advocacy Fund to support legal action against sex discrimination in higher education, followed by advocacy in the Nineties for gender equity in K-12 education.

With the new century, we continue to make the world a more equitable place for women the same way we began the last century: by promoting opportunities for service for college graduates and by providing them educational programs and activities. Our service focuses on scholarships for women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and STEM education and recognition for elementary, middle and high school girls through Girls Go Tech, Tech Trek and High School Scholars programs. In addition, we continue to provide educational programs to our members at our monthly meetings, as well as in special interest groups, including the Adelante! Book Club, Reel Movie Lovers and, with others in the community, the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions discussion group.

My vision for our Bellingham Chapter of the AAUW is to include each member at their highest level of expertise to move each of us—member, scholarship recipient and women in general—to each individual's highest level of accomplishment.



AAUW National Convention Report

by Susan Moen and Tonna Kutner

(Note: Susan emailed the complete report to members earlier, but it is well worth repeating some of the highlights:)

My friend Tonna Kutner and I were able to go to the AAUW National Convention in Washington DC June 14-17, 2017. Also attending was our new dual member, Marziah Kiehn, who is also the state finance officer.

As always, the event was so worthwhile and filled us again with passion for our mission: *Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.*



What an honor! Susan Moen, left, with U.S. Senator Patty Murray and Tonna Kutner, at AAUW Lobby Day.

DC Lobby Day

We went to Lobby Day with the Washington State delegation to talk to our senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and to our representatives Adam Smith and Suzan DelBene. This involved almost 800 AAUW members from across the country and it was exciting to be a part of this big event. We are fortunate to have senators and representatives in our area that are in favor of many of AAUW's issues. There are others across the country and within our state that are not as fortunate. All went to their various senators and representatives and we made an impact. There were two issues we were lobbying for:

1. Title IX turns 45 this year, we still need it, and need strong enforcement to keep Title IX effective in leveling the playing field for women and minorities in sports, engineering and computer science among other fields. Sexual harassment and violence remain an unacceptable part of students' education. We asked our members of Congress to support increased funding for the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights to continue their vital work to ensure schools comply with our civil rights statutes, including Title IX.

2. AAUW's new research study this year is Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans. The short version is that of the \$1.3 trillion student debt, women hold 2/3s of that debt and men hold 1/3. Many women, especially women of color, were unable to meet essential expenses within the last year, let alone their student debt. We asked our members of Congress to support Pell Grants and other legislation to bring down the cost of college, provide need-based grant aid to students, and support income-driven repayment options. This will help all the many young people holding student debt, but especially women since they hold 2/3s of the debt. Find more about the "Deeper in Debt" study here:

<http://www.aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/>

The members of Congress we talked to were surprised about the results of our debt study and felt it gave them more ammunition to fight for this cause in Congress. Just one of the things I love about AAUW is that we provide much needed facts to keep our positions moving forward.

What I learned from all my members of Congress is that it's important to keep in touch whether they're on your side or not. They do track phone calls and email and pay attention to what their constituents say. Hand written letters are important, but do not get tabulated right away. Most members of Congress use software that can scan email so they can be quickly tabulated. Phone calls are tabulated too. Hand written letters take longer, sometimes weeks longer. I encourage everyone to sign up for the AAUW Two-minute Activist below. In this time of political unrest, I find AAUW a great resource and comfort in working across political lines to bring about positive legislation.

We met as a group with Senator Patty Murray (she's still wearing tennis shoes) and Maria Cantwell. We had good meetings led by our state President, Judy Prince. Health care was a particular challenge for them. West Virginia, Alaska and Nevada are important swing states for Medicaid. If you know anyone in these states, ask them to contact their members of Congress.

Best Tips:

Keep in touch with your members of Congress through Two-minute Activist. Sign up on the national AAUW Web site.

If you have a personal story regarding any particular issue, write it out and send it along with permission to use it. These stories give a face to the issues and help members of Congress get their points (and ours) across.

Schedule an in-district meeting with your members of Congress

Write letters to the editor. For tips on this contact advocacy@aauw.org.

We had Great Speakers!

As always at AAUW Convention, we had great speakers including Tererai Trent, PhD, Laura L. Dunn, J.D., and pollsters Linda DiVall and Celinda Lake. Congresswomen Lois Frankel from Florida spoke with us to inspire our lobbying. Judy Woodruff (PBS co-anchor) was a keynote speaker. She was great to listen to and has seen many changes in the news industry over her long career and it's changing again now.



The total highlight was Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. She spoke for about 45 minutes to our 800 members. She walked through the hall as she spoke, answering questions from our new CEO, Kimberly Churches. She is a great speaker and was very articulate – sharing both her intellect and her heart. She talked about education being the key to progress - among many other things - all the while she shook hands and embraced many of our members. Tonna got to hold her hands and touch cheeks. The whole event was a very moving experience and one that will stay with all of us.



United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Our new CEO

We met our new CEO, Kimberly Churches, who has been in office since June 1. She is a great speaker and a good listener too. She comes from the Brookings Institute. She has great experience and a great attitude. She is a specialist in getting corporate support for projects.

AAUW Elections

Adding an Advocate category of membership – did not pass. The majority were in favor, but it requires a 2/3s vote.

Eliminate the degree requirement – did not pass. The majority voted against this and it requires a 2/3s vote.

All the other by-laws changes passed except changing the quorum from 5% to 3% which did not pass.

Our new Board Chair is Julia Brown. She is a very able speaker and I think will be a great leader for us. She received one of the 60 awards given by Barack Obama last year. Peggy Ryan Williams is our new Vice Chair.

For more detailed information on elections and to see the full list of the new Board of Directors see: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

Some questions came up about **Lisa Maatz**, our long time Public Policy chair who recently resigned. Kim Churches said that she had worked for AAUW for 15 years and that is a long time in this business. It is now her choice and her time to move on with her career. Of course, she was missed, as she has always been a great presence at the Convention. Next National Convention will be in 2020 - three years away instead of two. This will be a big celebration - 100 years since women got the right to vote in 1920. No news yet on where it will be.


We also go to meet old friends and make new ones - great friendships are a big part of AAUW for me. Here's a picture of many of the Washington State Delegation - there was about 25 total.

Thank you to the Bellingham AAUW for funding part of the costs of the convention. It is much appreciated



ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB will meet at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon, August 24. The book will be *Mink River*, by Brian Doyle. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

Thanks to Judith Entwife and her husband for providing a new easel for AAUW event signage.



Anniversary Committee Notes and Needs!

The Anniversary Committee has been working over the summer to plan a wonderful celebration of AAUW-Bellingham's 100th birthday in 2018. **We plan to celebrate from now until October 2018** with tidbits of interesting facts of our history at each meeting, possible extra events throughout the year focusing on women, and adding to general meeting programming connecting our history with national AAUW history. Students from a Summer English class at WWU have begun a video of AAUW-Bellingham throughout the century! Other English classes will continue the work. Three of our members were interviewed with video and our committee thinks this will be a big hit at our culminating event on October 13th, 2018.

We need YOUR help! We are planning a fashion show or adding interest throughout the year with fashions of the last century on mannequins connected with a story of a decade or quarter of a century about our Branch! Sound like fun? Do you have fashions tucked away from years ago that may be fun to use? Past pictures or memorabilia of events in Whatcom County in the last century are most welcome. The committee has been searching the Bellingham AAUW archives and we are **running short on branch info of the last 25 years!** Do you have membership booklets, newsletters, pictures of events or of past members, newspaper clippings, past event flyers or brochures, etc.? They are all welcome and needed. We can copy info and return your original or put your items in the archival treasures at the Northwest State Archives located near WWU in Bellingham.

Planning these activities is fun. Why not lend your time and talents to the committee? All are welcome. We need ideas, artists, computer whizzes, researchers and writers, and "how can I help?". Contact Cathie Oberg or Carol Simmer to volunteer or get more information and /or look us up at the general meeting September 9th! **Thank you!**

Cathie Oberg obergcl@comcast.net
or Carol Simmer carolsimmer@comcast.net



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