

Election Time! March 12, 10 a.m.

March brings AAUW elections...and a visit from some *very old* acquaintances

A slate of candidates has been named prior to Bellingham Branch elections, set for the March 12th meeting at the YWCA.

Candidates are **Lynn Bellinger and Sue McDonald, Membership Vice Presidents, and Helene Berg-Kolin, Treasurer.** Sue is currently membership chair with Helene, who has served four years in that position.

Also planned for the annual meeting is a review of the budget, and short reports from board members.

Coffee and tea will be provided to sustain us through our business meeting. Members whose last names begin with A through M are once again asked to bring light snacks.

After business is concluded, we will hear from some Women of History. Tonna Kutner, from the Seattle Branch, will portray Susan B. Anthony, and Catherine Chambers will bring Eleanor Roosevelt. Gwen Parker will portray Phoebe Judson, “the Mother of Lynden.”



The original Susan B. Anthony



Attention, Members!
Pay your 2016-17 dues at the March meeting and *be eligible to win a beautiful flower basket!*

Please bring your check for \$70 (or \$21 for Life Members) and be prepared to fill out the membership form and you will be entered into the special drawing —You can start spring immediately with your prize.

We very much appreciate you making things easier for the Branch by paying your dues early: Our April and May meetings will be special events, where it will be hard to handle bookkeeping chores.

Thanks for your support!
Helene & Sue



Growing Community: A few Bellingham Branch members join February guest speakers in a show of support for Growing Veterans' mission: *"To empower military veterans to grow food, communities, and each other."* From left, Sue McDonald, Carol Simmer, Jean Cox-Treverton, Susan Moen, GV personnel Scotty Irwin and Chris Wolf, Maggie Moore and Jo Pullen.

Veterans helps themselves and the community through new local program

A short road trip is on the summer agenda for several Bellingham Branch members after hearing our February speakers, from Growing Veterans. The road trip goal is a visit to the farm to buy some of the vegetables, because they looked *gorgeous* in the slide show. Our speakers were Chris Wolf, Operations Manager for the Growing Veterans farm, and Scotty Irwin, a former military medic and new employee at GV. They explained that Growing Veterans is a fairly new organization, started by three-tour combat veteran Chris Brown. Brown started gardening as therapy for his own PTSD, and in conversations with other vets in classes at Huxley College of the Environment, formed the idea of starting a local farm. They wanted a spot where veterans could find meaningful work, begin to reintegrate into civilian life, and reduce the feeling of isolation that is common to vets when they are no longer in their tight-knit military units. One of their goals was to serve as a model

for how farming should be done, with protection of the environment and best practices for growing the most nutritious foods.

A job on a local farm, a fellowship, and help from Growing Washington enabled Brown to take over the lease of the former Bellingham Food Bank farm. In one of those "it was meant to be" events, he was encouraged to talk with Chris Wolf, who had been working on the farm while the food bank ran it. She also has a degree in counseling. The fit was perfect, and farming began in 2013. Both Chris Wolf and Scotty Irwin attested to the value the program has for veterans. The peer support and outdoor work environment are real therapy, plus top-notch produce has been trucked to the farmer's market at the Seattle Veterans' Hospital where most of the customers are veterans or medical personnel. Chris says that if a vet can't afford the produce, it becomes a gift from GV. Produce also is sold to local restaurants.

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Growing Veterans

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Both women gave us insights into their personal histories and reasons for joining GV. Chris is a Bellingham native, and Scotty was born and raised in Scotland. Both have had their own battles with PTSD - Chris as the result of a car accident, and Scotty from years of work as a medic, EMT and police officer. Thus, they both have empathy for returning soldiers.

The program has drawn national interest, with other communities interested in copying the idea. GV has grown enough to add a second rented acreage, Starbird Farm, in the Skagit Valley, and now has 10 employees plus many volunteers. They are now developing peer-to-peer support training, to teach vets to be supports for each other.



Interest Group News

Adelante! Book Club meets at Arlis's Restaurant,

1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday. The March 24th book will be *Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. 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. On March 10th, the Bookies will be discussing *"Dear Life"*, a collection of short stories by Alice Munro. We welcome all comers - please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526.

Reel Movie Lovers

The February movie chosen was *The Lady in the Van*, starring Maggie Smith. We 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 March 20th 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*. Contact: Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.



Jean Cox-Trevertton, March 18th

Carol Radke, March 24th

AAUW and LWV to be joint sponsors for guest speaker in April

Bellingham Branch of AAUW is pleased to join the Bellingham/Whatcom County League of Women Voters in presenting educator, politician and lecturer Jeanne Kohl-Welles for our April 9 meeting. See the flyer below for particulars.

Note: The meeting will be held in the downstairs presentation room. Persons needing handicap access may use the front entrance, and take the elevator to the downstairs presentation room. Others may use the back entrance (facing City Hall).

We will be asking members attending to bring a dozen cookies, as a large crowd is expected.




SPEAKERS BUREAU PRESENTS

*Women as Political Change Agents:
From the late 1800's to the Present*



A conversation on the development and influence of women's leadership roles in politics.

Jeanne Kohl-Welles
King County Councilwoman

JOIN US: Saturday, April 9, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.
Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

HOSTED BY:
**American Association of University Women
Bellingham Branch & League of Women
Voters® of Bellingham/Whatcom County**



Speakers Bureau fosters inquiring minds through engaging conversations about history, culture, geopolitical issues and more.

For more information, visit www.humanities.org



Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state.

Running a new idea up the flagpole....

The Bellingham Branch Executive Board has been discussing a Spring fund-raiser. Members feel that the wine-tasting has perhaps run its course, and those of us who have worked to put it together are getting a little worn out...

The idea was floated that perhaps we go back to the potlucks we used to have for the June meetings, and turn it into what I like to call "The Lazy Ladies' Fund-raiser."

Basically, we'll just pass the hat. We have a couple ideas for fun programs for the event, also.

Reactions? Email one of the board members, listed to the right.

Thanks for your thoughts...

Gwen Parker, for the Board

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.

Bellingham Branch, AAUW

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No luncheon in March

At the February meeting, members approved plans to gather for lunch after the March business meeting. However, no suitable venue was found - so, we'll do it another time!