



April Meeting

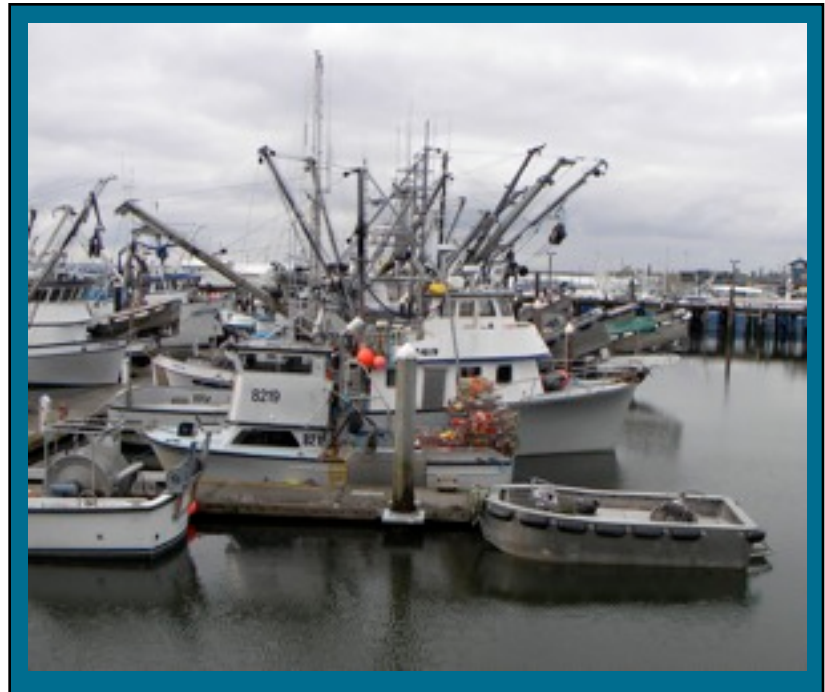
**Learn about
the Literacy Council**

Katherine Freimund, Executive Director of the Whatcom Literacy Council, will be our guest speaker at the April 13th meeting.

Since 1978, this non-profit organization has been providing free, customized tutoring to adults who request assistance to improve their reading and writing skills. In addition, WLC holds a number of small-group classes to help learners achieve their goals.

Find out more about their services, why their programs are so effective, and the different ways you can become involved.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St.



**Annual business meeting leads
to new officers, new direction**

An agreement to increase spending on scholarships and educational programs was reached at the Bellingham AAUW annual business meeting, March 9. Citing an increase in Branch funds over last year, and the rising cost of tuition, members voted to increase the number and/or amount of scholarships given, providing that a \$10,000 balance always be kept in the Branch savings account. Specific decisions on the increased spending were left to the executive board, with the exception of voting for a second \$500 donation to Tech Trek, a STEM camp for middle school girls.

Members also voted to fill the positions of President, Program Chair and Secretary.

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Elections and budget are main topics for annual meeting

(continued from page 1)

Gwen Parker will continue as president, after finishing a one-year term as co-president with Susan Moen. (The unusual one-year term was the result of a transitional program within the branch, the previous year.)

Susan Moen and Pam Sankey were voted in as program co-chairpersons.

Lila Brumback accepted the position of secretary, after being nominated from the floor.

Continuing the second years of their terms will be Sue McDonald, treasurer and newsletter editor; and Helene Berg-Kolin and Liz Wright, membership co-chairpersons.



Officers retiring in June will be Sharlene Joshua, secretary,

and Brenda Karasik, program chairperson.

Sue McDonald presented a proposed 2013-2014 budget, which generated wide discussion. Currently we have \$15,566.81 in our WECU savings account and the checking account is \$7,176.04. Our checking account is \$1,770 above last year's March balance because of the successful wreath sale. Our WWU endowment fund stands at about \$75,000.

Other discussion centered around the annual High School Scholarship Recognition Program. Three eligible students from each of the twelve high schools gives the program a potential total of thirty-six students plus family members attending the event.

Membership Matters

.....Don't Wait Too Long



It is time to renew your membership for the coming year. We anticipate that the rate will stay the same (\$70).

It is very important that we collect forms for everyone renewing as well as your check; this has been an issue in recent years and we hope to simplify the process. You won't need to complete all the contact and school information again unless things have changed, but we do need your committee and interest group preferences to keep our records current.

The forms will be emailed before the April meeting for those who renew by mail and hard copies will be available at the April meeting for those who attend and prefer to submit dues at that time. Your help with completing all the necessary paperwork is most definitely appreciated! Please contact Helene if you have any questions or concerns: hbergkolin@gmail.com or call 360-392-8856.

Last year the turnout was less than expected. We will continue giving flash drives in the gift bags for the girls. Different items to add to the bag are being discussed. Also, some members thought that the refreshment tables needed a more polished presentation.

If you have any ideas for a meaningful, inexpensive modern objects for the gift bags for the girls, please contact a board member.

(See formal meeting minutes on page 8)

Help Girls Go Tech!

For the second consecutive year, AAUW is helping to fund **Girls Go Tech**, a Whatcom Community College program that invites local middle school girls to campus for a day of workshops including cybertechnology, robotics, and high tech investigation techniques. These fun workshops revolve around themes relevant to the younger student and provide lots of hands on practice using investigative tools. Parents are invited to accompany their daughters, and may participate in the workshops as well as attend their own workshops to get more information on how to help their daughters follow the path to a STEM career.

At the end of the day, there will be a

robotic obstacle course competition for the kids and parents. It should be a fun day. Lunch is included for all participants and volunteers.

We'd like to send two AAUW members to this event as volunteers. Typically, a volunteer accompanies groups of students or parents to their next session, and may do some general small tasks, such as passing out papers, setting up materials, etc. There's also time to just sit in on the sessions and learn more about these topics yourself!

If you'd like to help out for all or part of the day, contact Liz Wright:

lswrights@gmail.com. It would be great to have an AAUW member there.



Calling all Middle School & Jr. High Girls!

Girls Go Tech Workshop

What's in Your Future?

GGT Workshop includes:

- Hands on Labs
- Technology Speakers
- Robotic Obstacle Course
- Lunch for two
- "Future Student" info about WCC Technology Programs

To register, go to www.whatcom.ctc.edu/girlsgotech or call 360-383-3193

Workshop limited to 24 Girls (plus parents/guardians)
Registration deadline is April 3, 2013

Sat, April 13, 2013
9am-3pm Cost \$10.00
Bring a Parent or Guardian, too!

Whatcom COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Notice of Non-Discrimination
Whatcom Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, housing discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, genetic information or age in its programs and activities. PCC publications are available in alternate formats upon request.

*This event's made available by funds from the Carl D. Perkins Act

Save these Dates!!

High School Scholars Recognition, May 11

Wine-Tasting Fund Raiser at Samson Estates Winery, June 8

Calling all walkers!

Cindy Paffumi, who leads the “Women Who Walk and Wine” interest group, says the group has grown so large that she is asking us not to advertise it in our monthly newsletter.

Three cheers that people are getting out for some fresh air and fun, but that leaves an opening for starting one or two new walking groups.

Interested persons should think this over, and we’ll address the question at the April meeting. Perhaps by then, some of you will already have something going!

Women's Discussion Group changes day

Our meeting day will change to the **FIRST** Tuesday of the month beginning in April. This will be April 2, 7-9 p.m.

We hope the change in schedule does not inconvenience anyone - it is necessary to accommodate the new on-going Simplicity Group.

April's topic will be Environmentalism, in honor of Earth Day. Same location: 3104 Vallette Street, Cornwall Park. Discussion questions will be emailed the week before the meeting. Contact: Helene at hbergkolin@gmail.com or call 360-392-8856.



Simplicity Circle is spin-off from Women’s Discussion Group

The core group of a Simplicity Circle has met and set up some guidelines for monthly meetings. We've chosen a book to follow: [Simplicity Lessons -A 12-Step Guide to Living Simply](#).

We plan to meet the third Monday of each month, but we're leaving the meeting time open until we know whether or not any working folks would like to participate. If so, we could plan to meet in the evening. The location of the Simplicity Circle is still being confirmed; those who RSVP will be notified.

If you're at all interested in simplifying your life, or would just like to learn more about the topic, we would love to have you join us.

Please respond to me by e-mail or phone by Friday, April 12 if you'd like to participate. After that time the circle will be closed to new members.

Dianne Davis, 206-719-8212 or diannedavis46@gmail.com



National AAUW has debuted a new logo for the first

time in 20 years, as well as an updated website. The previous logo was introduced in 1990, and was starting to show its age, especially in an increasingly digital world. A logo working group, composed of board members and staff, took on the task of creating the new logo. They wanted a modern, readable typeface for the logo and a tagline that would instantly convey who we are and what we do. The new logo emphasizes the "W" as the central element of our name and work and has a more global look.

To develop the tagline, the working group tried another new trend, crowdsourcing. They posted a description of AAUW and our communications goals on [Crowdspring](#) and invited freelance writers from around the world to submit ideas. The process netted more than 2,000 entries and showed remarkable consensus around the themes of empowerment and AAUW's extensive history. The working group quickly settled on "Empowering women since 1881" as the new tagline, and the board approved it unanimously in October.

The website redesign allows for complete mobile access and features expanded and improved social media integration for all our online content. This integration should make the site more user friendly, provide a better experience for smartphone and tablet users, and create greater visibility for AAUW. It's easier than ever to use the new website and share AAUW content across platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. The new national logo and other branch and state resources are available on our new [AAUW Branding Tool Kit](#) page.

Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in downtown Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month. April book: *The Price of Inequality* by Joseph Stiglitz
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.

April - Steven Galloway, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*

Please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526

Dames Who Dine

Contact: Lori Smiley 360-739-1379

YOU ARE WELCOME

Our 60 members strong Bellingham AAUW branch offers scholarships to local area institutes of higher learning. 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

Pat O'Brien



Our dear friend Pat O'Brien passed away peacefully on March 7, 2013, a few days after suffering a stroke and less than two months after her husband Jim passed away. She was born and grew up in Ohio. Pat is survived by her sister, Mary Elizabeth Snook, of Redmond, WA; children William O'Brien, Maura Griggs and Kathleen Seidl, and many loving relatives and friends.

She was president of Bellingham AAUW from 1987 to 1989 and an active branch member until her death.

She earned her Bachelor's degree from Oberlin College, Ohio, and Master's in Physical Education from University of Washington. She taught at Western's Campus school, local high schools, and was an American Red Cross trainer. Pat had a lifelong interest in sports and teaching. She climbed Mt. Baker, she won the Bellingham Golf and Country Club annual woman's championship nine times, and was host of the Pat O'Brien Pro-Am golf tournament. She led Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and a special needs scout troop. She and Jim loved to travel. Their honeymoon was spent bicycling through Europe and Ireland.

Pat served on committees that brought a public swimming pool to Bellingham and created Boulevard Park.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at Sacred Heart Church, 1110 14th Street, in Bellingham on Thursday, May 2, 2013

Bellingham Branch member Cyndie Shepard is one of four women who received the 2013 YWCA Northwest Women's Hall of Fame award March 24. Cyndie is founder and volunteer director of Compass 2 Campus, a program that sends trained college students to low-income schools to help kids see that they can aim for college, too.

AAUW BELLINGHAM EXECUTIVE BOARD 2012-2013

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Liz Wright & Helene Berg-Kolin

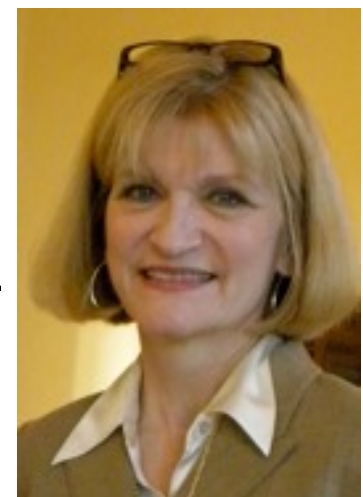
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Sue McDonald

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TECH TREK: Math/Science/Technology Camp for Girls

CONCEPT/HISTORY

Tech Trek was established as a state wide program by AAUW California in 1998 with an initial \$5,000 Community Action Grant from AAUW's Educational Foundation. The concept for the program centered on AAUW's 1993 study, "*Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America*".

Rising eighth grade (completed seventh grade) girls were selected as the target audience as AAUW research has shown that this is the age when girls start dropping out of the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math) although they have the necessary competencies for these fields.

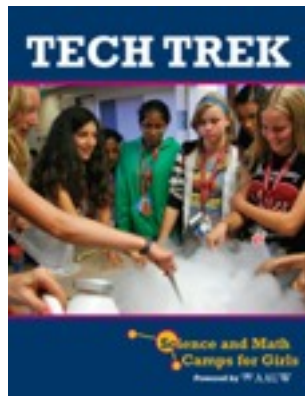
The program is designed as a scholarship based program with local branches selecting and funding students from their local public schools. A teacher recommendation is required for every candidate; from those nominees, branches interview and select the students they will support.

Branches benefit from the program at the local level by gaining members as many parents join AAUW. Branches also gain stature in their communities as they are providing a unique opportunity for that community's young women.

As of its 14th year in California in 2012, more than 7,000 young girls have attended, some to return as counselors, and even a camp director. In early 2007, participants from the first four years of the AAUW California Tech Trek Science Camp for Girls (1998-2001) were surveyed about the impact of their camp experience on their attitudes and subsequent academic and personal choices. Respondents were largely enthusiastic about their time at

Tech Trek, many saying that it had been the most influential personal or academic experience of their middle school years.

Respondents to the survey also indicated much higher levels of science and math courses taken during their high school years, well above the national average, as well as increased participation in AP science and math courses. They also exceeded national norms in terms of college attendance. Though few of the women had completed their degrees at the time of the survey, greater percentages indicated that they intended to major in science- and math-oriented fields than the percentage of women in such fields nationally. All participants credited Tech Trek camp for encouraging their interest in science- and math-related careers.



FUNDING

As a scholarship based program, local branches raise funds to support their candidates. Grants from local and national foundations and major corporations are potential sources of funding for either individual branches or the overall program.

FINANCE

Costs are based on approximately \$1,000 per camper, with a minimum of 50 campers (AAUW is basing their figures on \$900 per camper and minimum of 75 campers). In order to obtain family buy in, each family is asked to pay a small amount (about \$50); many branches pay this fee for low income families.

AAUW Business Meeting Minutes March 9, 2013 -- Bellingham YWCA

Co-president, Gwen Parker called the meeting to order and introduced the branch's newest member, Maggie Moore. Gwen read email messages from Karen Morse, Suzanne Thorp and Esther Golde who could not attend today's meeting, and also noted the passing of long time member and past president from 1987-1989, Pat O'Brien.

Reports from elected Executive Board members, Brenda Karasik on programs, Helene Berg-Kolin on membership, Sharlene Joshua-secretary, and Sue McDonald-treasurer were presented. Sue handed out a proposed 2013-2014 budget to the membership for their consideration.

Reports from committee heads followed: Communications/Publicity-Helene Berg-Kolin, Public Policy-Elsie Heinrick, Newsletter-Sue McDonald, Scholarships-Brenda Karasik, College/University Relations-Carol Simmer, High School Scholars-Sharlene Joshua and Carol Simmer, Fundraising-Susan Moen, Girls Go Tech-Gwen for Liz Wright, and a wrap-up of the year and a report on the new website was given by Gwen Parker.

Gwen introduced the nominating committee, Susan Moen and Rosemary Hostetler. They presented a slate of nominees to the membership.

Gwen Parker was nominated for President. She was elected to a two year term.

Susan Moen and Pam Sankey were nominated for Program. They were elected Program Co-Vice Presidents for a two year term.

No nominee was found for Secretary. Susan called for any nominations from the floor. Carol Simmer nominated Lila Brumbeck and she accepted the nomination. She was elected to a two year term as branch secretary.

After the elections, Gwen opened the floor for discussion. Her first question to the membership was how they think the branch

should spend its money. Elsie stated that the savings account (\$15,000) was originally intended for the education fund. She felt that that fund should be kept separate and only go to scholarships and education. Inge Paulus thought that the branch could bring the education fund balance down to \$10,000 and spend the other \$5,000 for extra scholarships. There was concern by several members that the money could be spent very quickly and then we wouldn't be able to meet our commitments to local schools in the form of scholarship agreements. Brenda clarified that the agreements are not "commitments" if the branch doesn't have the funds. Lila Brumbeck suggested trying to get matching funds from local companies to help with our scholarships.

Susan Moen moved that the branch let the board decide how to increase giving and still keep \$10,000 in the education fund at all times. The motion was seconded and passed.

Susan Moen also moved that we increase our Tech Trek donation from \$500 to \$1,000 in order to get the matching money that was offered by Kelvie Comer. The motion was seconded and passed.

The discussion included several questions about categories and amounts in the proposed budget. Elsie thought that some of the amounts and categories could be changed so that the budget is as accurate as possible. Elsie moved that the approval of the 2013-14 budget be postponed to a later date to allow for more input on categories. The motion was seconded and passed. Elsie will get together with Inge, Sue McDonald and any other interested members to work on the proposed budget.

Gwen had additional discussion questions but those were tabled because of time constraints. The meeting was adjourned by Co-president, Gwen Parker.

Minutes submitted by Sharlene Joshua

Sorry about these two empty pages -- I cannot figure out how to delete them, and I have tried everything I can think of.

--Gwen

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--Gwen