

Annual business meeting...

Election of officers slated for March meeting

Please be sure to attend our annual business meeting, March 14 at the YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St. This year **we will elect a new president, program chair and secretary.**

Our Nominations Committee presents the following candidates:
President: Susan Moen
Program Co-Chairs: Jo Pullen, Liz Wright, Esther Golde
Secretary: Jean Cox-Treverton
More nominations may be made from the floor, if the nominee has agreed beforehand.

Also, **Robin Kagan will present a program, "Protect Your Finances."** This is an opportunity to understand the limits of health insurance and Medicare and learn how to be prepared for the large out-of-pocket costs of Long-Term Care.

Members with last names beginning with M through Z are asked to bring snacks for the March business meeting.

Retiring officers are Branch President Gwen Parker, Program Co-Chairs Susan Moen and Pam Sankey, and Secretary Lila Brumback.

(cont. on pg. 5)



Prestigious panel discusses history and future of Title IX

Although today she has a string of honors and awards in her resume, recently retired WWU Athletic Director Lynda Goodrich remembers the days before Title IX, when “bake sales and car washes” were the way women’s athletics were financed. “My whole career has been fighting for equality for women,” Goodrich said, pointing out that while her field was sports, the impact of Title IX is felt in all areas of education.

Goodrich was one of four panelists who discussed Title IX before an audience gathered at
(cont. on pg. 2)



Becky Rawlings, left, HR director at Whatcom Community College, and Lynda Goodrich, former WWU Athletic Director, were guest speakers on Feb. 14.

Title IX panelists recall gender inequities

(cont. from page 1)

the February 14 AAUW meeting at the YWCA.

Becky Rawlings, now HR Director for Whatcom Community College, was one of Goodrich's students, and she, too, recalls the pre-Title IX inequities.



Sue Guenter-Schlesinger holds her purchase of an AAUW "Throw Like a Girl" Tee-shirt, supporting Title IX.

Sue Guenter-Schlesinger, WWU Vice Provost for Equal Opportunity and Employment Diversity, Title IX, and ADA Coordinator, pointed out that the old stereotypes surrounding

gender still exist, and that most of us still have some unconscious biases.

Dr. Paul Douglas, HR Director for the Ferndale School District, used an example from his own life to point out that gender bias works in both directions. Although he had worked as a nurse during his military service with the U.S. Naval Reserve, he could not get into a nursing school after he left the service, because he was a man.



Dr. Paul Douglas chats with AAUW member Catherine Chambers, who arranged the Title IX discussion.

Goodrich pointed out that women are still the traditional caregivers, and better laws governing family leave and assistance with childcare are needed.

Thanks to Jean Cox-Treverton, who provided Valentine's Day decor, as well as to those who brought refreshments. Sue McDonald's granddaughter, who is in the BTC culinary program, made the festive cupcakes. Yay! Education!



Private tour of Edward Curtis exhibit is planned for April meeting at Lightcatcher Museum

No-host lunch to follow

Our AAUW meeting on Saturday, April 11, will be a private tour of the Edward Curtis exhibit at the Lightcatcher Museum. Curtis is one of the most widely collected fine art photographers in the U.S. He spent three decades documenting 80 North American Indian Tribes west of the Mississippi, producing more than 40,000 images.

For those who would like to go to lunch after the tour, we have reserved space at Anthony's Homeport at Squalicum Harbor.

A few things to note. The museum opens at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. The cost is \$6, even if you are a member, because it is a private tour. It would be helpful if everyone could bring cash or a check. One of us will collect all the money in the lobby and make just one payment.

If you would like to add another dimension to the experience of the exhibit, the AAUW Program Committee recommends a wonderful book about Curtis by Seattleite Timothy Egan, called *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*. There are many copies in the library system and it is for sale in paperback at the museum.

Then, if you are inspired by the book and exhibit, we'll have a group trip to the Mount Baker Theater for a talk by Timothy Egan, on April 27th at 7 p.m. It is a free event.

Also, the private room at Anthony's holds just 24 people. You'll want to RSVP to Dianne Davis if you plan to attend the lunch.

The details about the MBT event will be forthcoming later.



"Piegan Dandy"

Will you help with High School Scholars? If you can assist with organizing the food table at the Spark Museum, greeting guests, bringing flowers or other chores for the HS Scholars event in May, please contact Carol Simmer. Thank you!

Elect Her - Campus Women Win!

The 5th year of the AAUW/Running Start program, *Elect Her - Campus Women Win!*, was presented to 45 WWU students at the Viking Union on Sat., Feb. 7th. *Elect-Her* is an AAUW initiative to motivate and train young women how to campaign and to win an elected office of their choice. AAUW and Running Start want to narrow the gap between women and men in elected offices throughout the country, starting with elected offices on college campuses! In the last 5 years women in government at WWU (Associated Students) have increased five-fold. Much of the credit has been given to the *Elect-Her* program.



Washington State Senator Pramila Jayapal speaks to the *Elect Her* audience.

This year Maggie Humphreys, a public affairs and communications specialist from a Seattle-based communications firm, and Ada Waelder, a Staff Assistant of Senator Maria Cantwell, were the *Elect-Her* facilitators. Other guest speakers with motivating messages for the students (including two men) were Roxanne Murphy, Bellingham City Council member and Senator Pramila Jayapal from the WA 37th Legislative District. Carol Simmer represented AAUW-Bellingham by giving a welcome and a tidbit of information about AAUW, as well as an invitation to join our monthly meetings, especially the Feb 14th Valentine for Title IX panel.



Submitted by Carol Simmer

Our next members of Congress? Students from Western get information on running for public office during AAUW's *Elect Her* presentation.

Annual business meeting Set March 14

(cont. from pg. 1)

Those remaining on the board for another year are Helene Berg-Kolin and Sue McDonald, co-membership chairs, and Hope Rollis, treasurer.

This business meeting affords an excellent opportunity to discuss our fund-raising, our many projects, and any concerns members wish to raise.

Attend! Vote! Make your voice heard!



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.

Interest Groups

Adelante! Book Club

Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. The **March 26 book** will be *Mockingbird*, by local author Julie Trimingham. Reviewer will be Varya Fish.

Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

Coffee and Conversation

Will meet the *third Friday* of the month (**March 20**) at 3 pm at The Woods Coffee shop in Barkley Village (near Regal Cinema)

...and the *fourth Saturday* of the month (**March 28**) at 11 am at the Public Market building on Cornwall Avenue, across from Arlis's Restaurant.

PM Book Club

The Evening Book Group meets at 6:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. The March 12 book is *Fool's Crow*, by James Welch. We welcome all comers - please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526.

Dames Who Dine

Currently on hiatus, but a few new diners would get this "on the table" again!

Member profile....

Service + fun = fulfilling life

by Gwen Parker

Combine the quintessential high-achieving firstborn-child with a sun-loving California girl, and what do you get? In this case, Roni Lenore.

One of our newer AAUW members, Roni moved to Bellingham from California in 2004. She considers herself “semi-retired,” but puts in at least 20 hours a month in volunteer work in addition to her contracted work. She walks and does yoga for exercise; plays cards and has taken up dancing for pure fun.



*Roni Lenore: San Diego and San Jose State Univ.
M.A. Student Personnel Services and Counseling
CRC, Certificated
Rehabilitation Counselor*

Roni began life in Playa del Rey, CA, the oldest of four children. Her family moved to Ojai when she was five. She recounts a pretty idyllic life there: In the summer, she and her siblings would put on their swimsuits as soon as they got out of bed, and head for the outdoor kitchen and backyard pool, where they taught swimming all summer. Roni was a competitive swimmer and a tennis player for many years, and also coached the city’s age group swim team.

When Roni talks about career, it quickly becomes obvious that she threw herself wholeheartedly into work in which she could be of real and lasting service to people. She says it took a few years to find her niche. Her father was a teacher and school administrator, so it was perhaps natural that she would become a teacher first. She began in special education, and then taught Career Education which led to vocational guidance and counseling, and ultimately vocational rehabilitation counseling.

Things began to get really interesting when she applied for a counseling job at Contra Costa College, and was offered instead the job of managing a new vocational training program. She accepted the challenge, and as a result was thrown into grant writing, budgeting, and program administration - a steep but rewarding learning curve. Later, after working as Dean of Admissions for a small business college and counselor for a vocational rehabilitation firm, she opened her own practice in the Bay Area. Over 25 years later that practice has evolved to have a primary focus on providing expert testimony for Social Security Administration which continues to this day.

She moved with her husband to Bellingham, when he retired, but the marriage did not survive. One thing that remains of the old life is shared custody of their toy poodle which brings great joy. In her new life, Roni serves as treasurer for the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship and also volunteers at the Pickford Film Center.

Roni has been slowly moving toward full retirement, and is building in more activities which she describes as light and fun. Hence, some travel plans for later this year, and Western line dancing at the Ten Mile Grange. This dancing is getting serious: she recently bought cowboy boots! 🌸🌸🌸



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2014-2015**

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Girls Go Tech to host former astronaut

Wendy Lawrence, the first female graduate of the United State Naval Academy to fly into space, will speak at the April 25 Girls Go Tech event at Whatcom Community College.

A retired United States Navy Captain, former helicopter pilot, an engineer, and a former NASA astronaut, she has also visited the Russian Space Station Mir. She was a mission specialist on STS-114, the first Space Shuttle flight after the Space Shuttle *Columbia* disaster.

As in years past, Bellingham AAUW is supporting the day-long program for middle school girls with a grant of \$500.

This program gives local middle school girls the chance to come to the campus for a day and enjoy games and short classes taught by the tech faculty at the college. In the past, classes have included robotics, cybersecurity, graphic design and forensic science, all geared to the interest and ability level of the girls. The students are accompanied by a parent, and the day on campus includes goody bags, lunch, and certificates of participation.

We are invited to send one or two volunteers to help out, accompanying the girls to their activities. Lunch is included. It's a good way to see how AAUW carries out its mission locally to support the education of our young women in STEM careers. Contact Gwen Parker or Liz Wright if you wish to participate.

Karen Gantenbein 14th

Jean Cox-Treverton 18th

Carol Radke 24th

Happy March Birthday!

From the Washington State AAUW Web site: Keeping up with legislation important to women

Come Monday, March 2nd, all the action will turn to the House and Senate floor as legislators and advocates work to get their bills voted on and sent to the opposite chamber before the next critical deadline on March 11th.

We anticipate that Minimum Wage (HB 1355), Paid Safe and Sick Days (HB 1356), and Anti-Retaliation legislation (HB 1354) will be debated on the House floor early next week.

A few items to note for this week and next:

The Appropriations Committee heard the Reproductive Health Act (HB 1647) on February 25th and passed it out of committee on 2/26.

We've been having very positive conversations with legislators about several bills that would impose both civil (HB 2160) and criminal (HB 1272) penalties on those who would distribute intimate images of another without their consent. Both bills are now in Rules and we are hopeful they will come to the floor and receive bi-partisan support.

We've been having good conversations with legislators about the importance of the Equal Pay Opportunity Act (HB 1646). Unsurprisingly, we are finding that the issue of gender pay disparity has real resonance with many legislators, R's and D's alike.

Membership Matters....

Spring means it's time for AAUW membership renewals. It's time to renew your commitment to supporting equity for women and girls, and the many activities and programs that we feature throughout the year.

Our membership form is on the last page of the newsletter. Please send the form with your check to the post office box (see the top of the form) or bring it to one of our upcoming meetings. (If you can't print it out, there will be copies available at our meetings.)

Please respond promptly to this request - thank you so much!

P.S. How about inviting a friend to join?

Helene Berg-Kolin
Sue McDonald
Membership Co-Chairs



American Association of University Women

2015- 2016 Dues

Bellingham Branch

Please complete this form and submit with your dues. Send by mail to:
AAUW, Bellingham Treasurer, PO Box 29862, Bellingham, WA 98228-1862

Membership Data Sheet for Branch Directory

Please fill in items as you wish them to appear in the annual Directory/Handbook for Branch Members.

Name: _____ Birthday: _____
(Not for handbook; month & day only!)
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Association Dues:

(National \$49, State \$10, and Branch \$11 = \$70,
Life Members pay \$21 for local & state dues only,
50 Year Honorary Life Members pay \$0)

AAUW Local Scholarship Donation _____

(Make check to AAUW Bellingham) Total: _____

**College/University Attended, with
Degrees/Major/Date:**

1. _____

2. _____

(Use the back of this form if necessary)

Committees/Interest Areas

For AAUW board use, not for handbook/directory. Please check areas that may interest you.

COMMITTEES:

Academic/Scholarships:

- Scholarships
- Projects

CFUW Sister Branch/W. Rock Liaison

Communications:

- Newsletter
- Publicity
- Website

Fund Raising :

- Wine Tasting
- Wreath Sale

High School Scholars

Historian

Hospitality

Membership:

- Book sales
- Sunshine

Nominating Committee

Phone Committee

Programs

Public Policy

Tech Trek

INTEREST GROUPS:

Adelante (Lunch Book Group)

Bookies (Evening Book Group)

Dames Who Dine

Other suggestions