



15th Year for High School Scholars!

***We Need You on May 14 at Spark Museum
10 am. , 1312 Bay St., Bellingham***

Please attend this event that will recognize female high school students for their excellence in science, technology and math. Twelve high schools are participating this year. Representatives from WWU, WCC, and BTC also will be present to welcome the girls and their families.

We expect nearly 100 people to attend, so ***your presence and donations of finger foods for refreshments are greatly appreciated.*** Hungry dads and brothers often come to the event to support their scholar so food is REALLY important. There will also be tea, regular and decaf coffee, lemonade or punch available.

Our speakers are chosen to encourage and motivate our High School Scholars. Both are in technology fields. **Sydney Cole**, a WWU graduate and software developer, is the founder of Kulshan Middle School’s Creators and Innovators Club for girls. (She spoke at our meeting last September.) **Andrea Frost** is a masters candidate at WWU and also works remotely for a cyber security company. Andrea also volunteers for the CIC program with Sydney.

Please be at the SPARK museum by 9:30 a.m. with your finger foods and enthusiasm for education and for AAUW. Remember that underground parking is available one street east of the museum in the Parkade. If you need transportation to the event, please call Carol Simmer (360) 961-4519 and she will arrange for another member to pick you up!

Let’s welcome three new members!!

Susan K. Wright
Michelle Kopcha
Julia Earnest

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“Women as Political Change Agents” is topic for community discussion

In partnership with Humanities Washington, the American Association of University Women--Bellingham Branch (AAUW) and the League of Women Voters® of Bellingham/Whatcom County hosted a community discussion, "Women as Political Change Agents: From the Late 1800s to Present" on April 9 at the Bellingham Public Library.

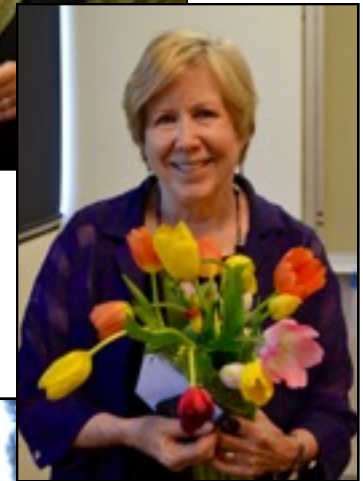
Speaking was King County Councilwoman Jean Kohl-Welles, who is a former state senator and a member of the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau.

Dr Kohl-Welles reminded us that one of the first two women elected as Washington State Representatives was a Bellingham woman, Frances Axtell, who served from 1913 to 1915. Her issues were a minimum wage, public safety, and mothers' pensions.

There were many interesting statistics presented, and for a video of the event, provided by LWV, visit <https://vimeo.com/164213588>

One chart to ponder: The number of women in each state's legislature. Washington and many of the western states are in the top 10, while many in the bottom 10 are southern states.

And a quote from our own U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell: "Women are more interested in getting things done than in claiming credit."



Photos:

Dr. Jean Kohl-Welles receives flowers from AAUW Bellingham Branch Program Chair Liz Wright.

LWV member Rebecca Johnson, left, chats with Dr. Kohl-Welles and Bellingham City Councilwoman Pinky Vargas.



Our 2016 Tech Trek candidates!! From left, Jasmine Miller, Kulshan Middle School; Calista Cronck, Kulshan Middle School; and Huyen Le, Fairhaven Middle School. All three are currently seventh-graders, and were chosen by our Tech Trek committee and their schools to attend the week-long Tech Trek science camp this summer at Pacific Lutheran University.

Calista has been chosen as our **“Wilson Engineering Scholar.”** Wilson made a large donation to support our local Tech Trek program, and their staff is excited to offer Calista a day of “shadowing” one of their engineers at work. The company has a history of supporting high school girls interested in engineering through their “shadowing” opportunities. Our Tech Trekkers may be the youngest to be offered this chance. Wilson Engineering’s core mission is to create and restore vital infrastructure for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems; transportation (roads and parking); and site development for private, commercial and institutional facilities. They have an experienced team of civil and structural engineers, surveyors, inspectors, and prioritize technical and professional excellence, proactive problem solving, personalized service, and integrity.

Interest Group Calendar

Adelante! Book Club meets at Arlis’s Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday. The May 26th book will be *The Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe 1944-45*, by Rick Atkinson. Review leader is Rosemary Hostetler. 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 May 12th book is *American Pastoral*, by Philip Roth. We welcome all comers - please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526.

Reel Movie Lovers

The April movie chosen was *Hello, My Name is Doris*, starring Sally Field. 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 May 15th 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: Liz Wright, 671-5518.



Girls Go Tech — Branch President Susan Moen joined her granddaughter Elena Wolgamot at the annual GGT day at Whatcom Community College. Also attending from AAUW to serve as campus guides were Sue McDonald (in white sweater) and Esther Golde. Special guests were retired United States Navy captain and astronaut Wendy Lawrence and Western Washington University Professor Dr Melissa Rice, a member of the Mars Curiosity Rover team.

May Birthdays???
There’s no one on the list!

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.



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May/June Calendar

- May 12 Bookies meeting at Colophon Cafe
- May 14 High School Scholars Recognition at Spark Museum
- May 15 Reel Movie Lovers Sunday matinee
- May 24 Board meeting at Terra Organica
- May 26 Adelante! Book Club at Arlis's Restaurant
- June 9 Bookies
- June 11 Fundraising Fiesta and potluck at Lake Padden Estates Clubhouse
- June 19 Reel Movie Lovers
- June 23 Adelante!
- June 28 Board meeting

Membership matters...

Attention Members!

Thank you to those who have paid their AAUW dues for the coming year.

All members will be receiving our membership form in a separate email. For those who still need to pay, please complete all sections of the form and mail with your check to the PO Box as noted on the top of the form.

Our deadline is fast approaching —We can take your dues at High School Scholars or you can mail them. We need the form for the directory update. Thank you very much!

Sue & Helene

Newsletter receives recognition

The Bellingham Branch monthly newsletter was named best in the category for small branches, at the Washington State AAUW convention in April.

Three from Bellingham Branch attend AAUW State Convention

Lynn Bellinger, Susan Moen and Catherine Chambers went to the AAUW-WA State Convention at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort Casino. As the Casino Convention Hotel is only one year old, the rooms, the cafes and the meeting rooms were all beautiful, spacious and full of Suquamish tribal art and sculpture. The National Team brought interesting information. We heard two women from the Board of Directors and a young woman from Gifts and Funds.

The speakers, the breakout sessions and the videos



all showed how much National promotes the AAUW message.

We made contacts with other women who gave us names of women to contact in Bellingham.

Susan Moen was appointed Chair of the Nominations Committee.

All three of us agreed that our attendance ignited us with renewed energy and ideas to try out this next year.

Thank you for the support which helped pay part of our registration fees.

Our new officers are President Judith Prince of Everett and Treasurer Marziah Kiehn who will soon be a dual member with Bellingham. New directors also were elected.

submitted by Susan Moen



Our Branch member Catherine Chambers is Chair of the Whatcom Democrats and chaired the May 1 convention. There were over 1200 people there, and she ran a tight ship.. I was there as a Hillary supporter. 80% were for Bernie so it was sometimes rather intimidating.. We were way too mild, but passionate in our support of Hillary in the delegates room. It was interesting to watch. I helped out with signing in, etc. Started at 8 and left at 5:30. I was tired - I can't imagine how Catherine felt. She was very able and quite impressive to watch on the podium.

submitted by Susan Moen

AAUW Fundraising Fiesta!

You won't want to miss the
June meeting this year...



We're going to have fun in a festive setting, eat lunch from a Taco Bar and drink Margaritas.

It will be a chance to visit with other members, celebrate our accomplishments, and raise some money to continue our scholarships for university women and middle school girls.

The Fiesta will be:

Saturday, June 11, 12:00 - 3:00

Lake Padden Estates

Clubhouse #26A

4949 Samish Way

Bellingham

Raffle Baskets...

We are asking each interest group to make up a basket to raffle, as they have done in previous years.

Silent Auction...

Any member who has an item for a silent auction is asked to donate. These may include food items (like a yummy pie), an art/craft creation, or an offer for a free service. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

Your Board will be providing the food and refreshments, but your help will be appreciated with the raffle baskets, silent auction items, and any help you can offer for set up or clean up. We will offer ride services, such as picking up a member who does not drive, and shuttling members to the clubhouse from the Lake Padden parking lot. But most importantly, **please plan on being there** to celebrate the end of another year of good work on behalf of women and girls in our community.

For more information or to offer your help, contact Elizabeth Wright, Susan Moen, or Gwen Parker (contact information page 5). More details will be available in future emails from the organizing committee.

Viva AAUW!