

## Tech Trek campers chosen for 2017 session

Bellingham AAUW has named four seventh grade girls to attend the Tech Trek camp at Pacific Lutheran University next summer. They are Mimi Baydek, Charlie Matthews, Natasha Oster and Riley Wolfe.

There will be a Meet and Greet for this year's campers and their parents on Saturday, May 20, at the Cordata Co-op, 9:00 - 11:00 am.

This will be an opportunity for AAUW members to meet the girls and their families and for them to meet one another. We will have treats, some handouts and share some highlights from past Tech Trek camp experiences as well as information about AAUW. *(Cont. on page 2)*



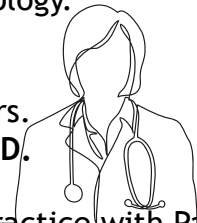
### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Scholars event is at the Pickford on May 13<sup>th</sup>!

The AAUW-Bellingham High School Scholars Recognition event has a new venue this year! We have outgrown the space available at the SPARK Museum and have moved next door to the Pickford Film Center. The event will honor our high school nominees from 12 Whatcom County schools for their excellence in math, science, or technology.

Two speakers will inspire our scholars.

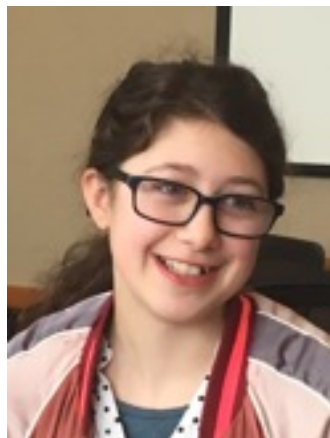
**Camille Miller, M.D.**

has been in the general surgery practice with Parkway—General Surgeons in Bellingham since 2008. Dr. Miller received her B.S. in Physiological Sciences at UCLA and her Doctorate of Medicine from David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Her areas of special interest are benign and malignant breast disease, colorectal surgery and advanced wound care. *One of her daughters was an AAUW-Bellingham Tech Trek camper in 2016!*



**Hilary Schwandt, PhD MHS**, earned her B.S. in Biochemistry from California Polytechnic State University in 2002. After graduating she lived in Jamaica for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She then earned her masters and doctoral degrees

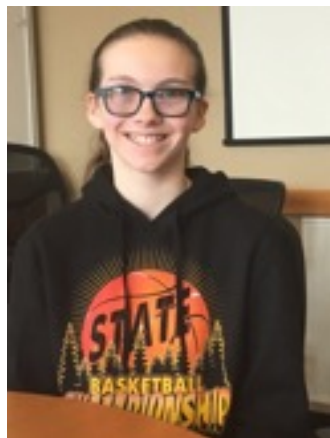
*(Cont. on page 2)*



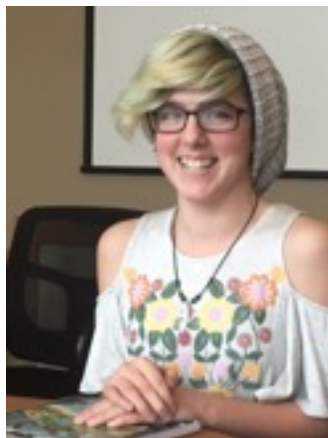
**Natasha Oster,**  
Shuksan Middle School



**Mimi Baydek,**  
Kulshan Middle School



**Riley Wolfe,**  
Shuksan Middle School



**Charlie Matthews,**  
Shuksan Middle School

## Tech Trek candidates chosen

(Cont. from page 1)

The program is open to girls who will start eighth grade next fall. They fill out an application and are interviewed by Bellingham AAUW members.

Cost for each camper is \$900, which has been raised through our scholarship fund drives, generous donations from members and local business FaithLife.

The Branch's Tech Trek committee is led by Pam Sankey and Jean Cox-Treverton.

## Make Your VOICE Heard

by Susan Moen

Please take the time to VOTE. Our Voices are important, National needs to know what we want to do on the Branch level. I will be going to the National Convention in Washington DC in June.

It's an AAUW Convention year and that means that new AAUW national officers will be elected, as well as votes cast on proposed bylaws changes, updates to the Public Policy Program, and various resolutions. Did you know that in the last AAUW national election, only one in eight members voted? Ironic – for an organization that encourages all members and our communities to vote in local, state and federal elections!

All members with e-mail addresses on file should have received an e-mail message entitled "Voting is open for the AAUW National Election! Here's your personalized link" from Mark Hopkins at AAUW on April 17th giving them instructions on voting. "Meet the Candidates" bios and a Voter Guide can be found online at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election>. All members are encouraged to vote online. Paper ballots must be postmarked by May 29th and online voting concludes on June 15th.

## High School Scholars event is at the Pickford

(Cont. from page 1)

from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her doctoral dissertation, based on research on unsafe abortion in Ghana, led her into research in her main areas of interest, gender and reproductive health. Currently Dr. Schwandt is an Assistant Professor at Fairhaven College, WWU. She recently secured a grant from the National Science Foundation to take undergraduate students to Rwanda to study their impressive family planning program.

***We need all our members to show support for education!*** Please come to celebrate these female scholars and to meet their families. **Please bring at least 2 dozen pieces of a finger food treat for our refreshments. Label your dish with your name if it is not disposable! Arrive around 9:30 a.m. and the program should start at 10 a.m. and be over before noon.**

**Address for the Pickford is 1318 Bay St. If you don't find street parking, try the Parkade, 1300 Commercial St.**

## Remember your membership!

AAUW Membership renewals (*aka annual dues*) can be submitted at the High School Scholars event. **Or** mailed to the AAUW PO Box 29862 Bellingham 98228.





*Cheers to 99 Years!*

*Saturday, June 10, 2017  
 11 am - 2 pm  
 Northern Meadows  
 Estates Clubhouse  
 3993 Gentlebrook Lane  
 Bellingham*

**JOIN BELLINGHAM AAUW  
 FOR  
*A Champagne Celebration*  
 AND  
 FUND-RAISER FOR  
 SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Come and enjoy*

- *Champagne Brunch*
- *Silent Auction*
- *Raffles*
- *Live music*

Proceeds will help provide scholarships to women attending Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College and Northwest Indian College.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
 UNIVERSITY WOMEN



*Mingle with AAUW members, spouses and friends at Northern Meadows Estates Clubhouse: Going north on James Street, take a right turn onto Telegraph Road, and the next right onto Gentlebrook Lane. The clubhouse is just beyond the gated entry.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets sold in advance will be held at the door. Checks payable to Bellingham AAUW. Hand them to your AAUW representative or mail to Bellingham AAUW, PO Box 29862, Bellingham, WA 98228. Tickets also available at the door.

RSVP: [liz4bham@gmail.com](mailto:liz4bham@gmail.com)

**Invite your friends to our champagne brunch - there will be fliers and tickets available at the High School Scholars event on May 13th.**



## Bellingham AAUW Marches for Science

Approximately a dozen members of Bellingham AAUW participated in the Bellingham March for Science on Earth Day, April 22. Some marched, several staffed a booth, and one member staffed a booth for another science-minded organization, the Spark Museum (one of our favorite places in town).

Although it rained (lightly) on our parade, steadfast supporters of science were estimated at between two and three thousand marchers.



Our Branch's STEM focus of the last decade was a good match for marchers supporting the sciences, scientific method and evidence-based policy decisions. As a result, we had many deeply interested visitors to our booth. Not only did we raise awareness of AAUW in our community and make useful connections, but we also took in over \$200 in donations and sales of small items, to help fund scholarships. The **event buttons** at \$2 each sold out in the first half hour. We should make up 30-50 for future public events.

“**Women in Science**” buttons were also a big seller at \$3 a piece with info paragraphs. Hedy Lamarr was the most asked for! We even stripped our hanging decorations and sold many of them. All but 3 of the decorations originally made for our STEM-theme Christmas tree at Whatcom Museum also sold.



Early birds: Even before Bellingham AAUW members were finished setting up our informational booth, marchers crowded around to see our display on how AAUW supports science.



Marchers gather in front of City Hall.



Photos by Cathie Oberg

**April meeting:** Local author Janet Oakley, left, was guest speaker at the April general meeting. She engaged the audience with a discussion of writing historical fiction. At right are Helene Berg-Kolin (in black) and Jean Cox-Treverton, who were surprised with the presentation of Named Honoree certificates. Not present to receive her certificate was Jo Pullen. The awards are given in recognition of outstanding work for the Branch.

*Happy May Birthday!*

*May 7th - Nina Kuhlman*

*May 10th - Susan Wright*



**New AAUW Research Report -**

**Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans**

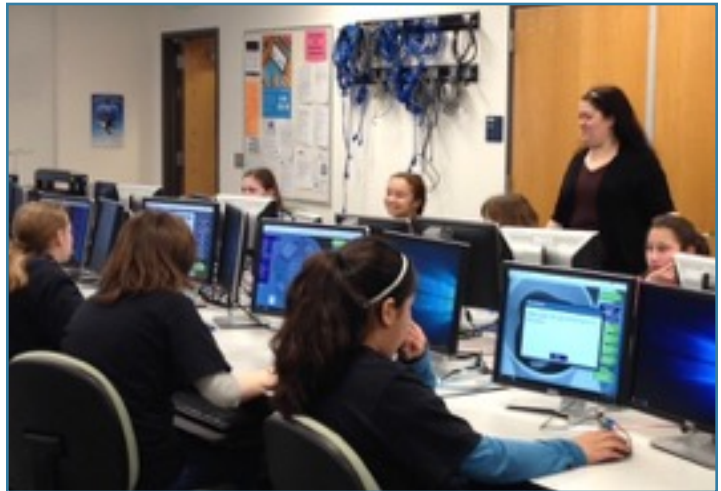
AAUW will publish new research in May—Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans. According to research, student loan debt disproportionately affects women. Women take on more student debt than do men and pay back their loans more slowly because of the gender pay gap. Sign up for a copy here: <http://www.aauw.org/research/deeper-in-debt/>

**Spring dinner set for super salespersons**

Branch President Susan Moen promised to make dinner for members who were the top sellers in our holiday greenery sale - you know who you are. May 17th is the date!



## Girls Go Tech + March for Science



***Speaking out for Science:*** Fresh from speaking to middle school girls at WCC's *Girls Go Tech* event, Melissa Rice, Ph.D., left, and Capt. Wendy Lawrence, USN, Ret., gather in the speakers' area in front of City Hall, along with Janelle Leger, Ph.D., before the April 22 *March for Science*. At right, WCC Instructor Christy Saunders guides a group of GGT participants through a computer course. Bellingham AAUW supports this one-day STEM program for girls each spring. Leger and Rice are both WWU professors. Liz Wright was our AAUW volunteer at Girls Go Tech this year.

REPORT from  
the WASHINGTON State AAUW Meeting  
*by Susan Moen, Bellingham Branch President*

Bellingham Branch has had an amazing year, and it was recognized at the state level. We received an Award of Appreciation for adding 9 new members between 2/1/2016 and 2/1/2017. We increased our total membership by 18.37%. This was the largest percentage of Region 3. I was very pleased to accept this award on behalf of all of you who have faithfully been bringing new people to our meetings. I think that our great programs and our good energy attracted these new members so we have a special thanks to the Program Vice Presidents.

The meeting was held April 22 in North Bend at the Cedar River Education Center. There was a large attendance of women from 18 of the 30 branches. We listened to one panel on human trafficking chaired by Lynda Buerhing, a retired Supervisory Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security. She oversaw the Human Trafficking Unit in Seattle. And we heard from Karen Anderson, PhD on "Women and Work: Origins of Pay Inequality." This was really good and worth looking into as a program that includes the WWU Women. Karen is a retired University of Arizona professor and author of four books. She is a newly elected WA State AAUW board member. From the National Board, Sue Barley spoke to us about the national voting process and answered many questions from the group.

There will be a Summer Meeting in Ellensburg which is a one day event. Let's get a group together to go and enjoy meeting other members in the state.





## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### GREAT DECISIONS

This discussion group will meet Tuesday, May 16, 1-3PM at the Congregational Church in Bellingham. The discussion topic will be "Latin America's Political Pendulum," led by Lila Brumback.

After the May meeting there will not be another until September.

Contact Jean Cox-Treverton, 360-392-0043, for more information.

### REEL MOVIE LOVERS

The next movie get-together will be Sunday, May 21. If you have any movie you would really like to see, contact Liz Wright, 360-671-5518, and she will send out a list of suggestions to everyone.

After movie times come out on the previous Tuesday, an email will be sent with the What, Where and When.

**ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB** meets monthly at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. The next meeting will be May 25th, and the book will be *Presence: Bringing Your Boldest Self to Your Biggest Challenges* by Amy Cuddy. This is a big book — start reading now! Reviewer will be Mary Jane Vetter. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

### IDEAS?

Do you have an idea for an interest group? Let one of our board members know, and they will try to help facilitate it.

## 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.



## YWCA Leadership Breakfast

Get your tickets by May 10 for the YWCA's annual Leadership Breakfast, to be held May 19, beginning at 7 a.m., at the Four Points by Sheraton, 714 Lakeway Drive. Speaker will be Capt. Deborah Dempsey, the first woman master of a seagoing cargo vessel, the first female graduate of any maritime academy, the first woman master of a vessel in wartime, and the first woman to pilot crossings of the Columbia River Bar.

Minimum donation for the breakfast is \$50. The event supports YWCA programs, services and advocacy for women.

Welcome to  
our newest Bellingham Branch  
member,  
Linda Tessier!

## Condolences

Maggie Moore's husband, Dick, passed away in April. He had resided at a local memory care facility in Bellingham for several years. Before he was taken ill, he and Maggie loved to travel. He was a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in journalism, worked as a writer and director for KGO radio and television station in San Francisco, and later accepted a position with United States Information Agency (under the State Department). He served for twenty years.

## From AAUW National...

*Here's a little glimpse at our legislative, field, and media efforts in 2017 thus far.*

As of the end of April, AAUW's Public Policy staff was monitoring around 40 different bills in the 115th Congress that fall within AAUW's member-approved [Public Policy Program](#). In that time frame our staff conducted around 800 different interactions with Capitol Hill staff – including meetings, correspondence, and visits from the AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps – to ensure AAUW members have a consistent, respected presence in the halls of Congress. **You can see the fruits of our labor in the over 20 floor statements from members of the 115th Congress that mention AAUW by name.** AAUW also joined over 65 sign-on [letters](#) to Congress and the administration on **legislation and policy recommendations**; this is a big increase over past Congresses.

Reinforcing those efforts, AAUW members and supporters received 29 federal Action Network notices from our staff so far this year, and in turn, **you sent an impressive 63,972 messages to legislators.** In fact, the AAUW [Action Network](#) is seeing record growth in 2017, with more individuals joining the list this year than did in all of 2016 combined!



## Bellingham Branch, AAUW

P.O. Box 29862 Bellingham, WA 98228

[www.aauw-wa.org](http://www.aauw-wa.org)

### Executive Board 2016-2017

#### President

Susan Moen 360-778-2510

[susanmoen@comcast.net](mailto:susanmoen@comcast.net)

#### Treasurer

Helene Berg-Kolin 360-392-8856

[hbergkolin@gmail.com](mailto:hbergkolin@gmail.com)

#### Program Chairs

Esther Golde 360-392-8418,

[solidgolde@yahoo.com](mailto:solidgolde@yahoo.com)

#### Jo Pullen

[jopullenbham@gmail.com](mailto:jopullenbham@gmail.com)

Liz Wright 360-671-5518

[liz4bham@gmail.com](mailto:liz4bham@gmail.com)

#### Membership Chairs

Helene Berg-Kolin 360-392-8856

[hbergkolin@gmail.com](mailto:hbergkolin@gmail.com)

Liz Wright 360-671-5518

[liz4bham@gmail.com](mailto:liz4bham@gmail.com)

Sue McDonald 360-325-2848

[sue@openaccess.org](mailto:sue@openaccess.org)

#### Secretary

Jean Cox-Treverton

360-392-0043

[jeancoxtreverton@ymail.com](mailto:jeancoxtreverton@ymail.com)

#### Newsletter/Web Editor

Gwen Parker 360-933-4314

[parker.gwen@comcast.net](mailto:parker.gwen@comcast.net)



