

## Young writers get their own time to shine

Stephanie Dethlefs began her talk at the November AAUW meeting by playing a writing game that she uses as a “warm up” for kids in her writing clubs. It worked on her audience of adults, too -- getting everyone talking and laughing at the results.

Stephanie is the founder and director of Whatcom Young Writers, a nonprofit group dedicated to helping young people develop their writing skills and giving them ways to share their work with the public. She began the program in 2009, after teaching in elementary schools for ten years.



AAUW is a leader in trying to interest girls and young women in math and science careers, in part to help them reach pay equity with men, and we acknowledge the necessity of good writing skills in every field. Stephanie agrees: “Everybody in the community

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## December meeting set at Allied Arts bazaar



*Have cookies and coffee, and lessons on art,  
Then shop for a present to warm someone's heart.  
It's time for our visit to Allied Arts' Fest -  
An annual treat where we see all the best  
In local art products and specialty food,  
Have our own cookie swap and leave feeling -  
renewed.*

Come join the fun when Bellingham AAUW holds its December meeting in conjunction with the Allied Arts Holiday Festival - Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to noon.

Location this year is 1835 Cornwall Ave, the former home of Mayberry Sporting Goods, diagonal from Bellingham High School. Three members of Allied Arts will discuss their work, and one of the three is our own Jean Cox-Treverton. Please bring your favorite holiday cookies, because after we hear the speakers, we'll swap any cookies we haven't eaten! Then, it is into the shopping area to search for unique gifts, or just marvel at the displays. The Annual Holiday Festival of the Arts is a six week long event featuring the work of over one hundred local artisans and craftspeople.

## Whatcom Young Writers

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has a stake in kids' ability to communicate effectively," she told the group.


Directed at kids who really want to write, Whatcom Young Writers has groups geared for students 8 to 18. Each session includes some teaching, time for individual writing, and time for kids to share their work, if they want. No one is forced to read their work, but most come to enjoy it.



Their first teen writing conference took place last June at Village Books, with 34 teens taking part. Nine local writers volunteered as faculty for the event.

The group also publishes literary journals to give kids what Stephanie calls "a middle ground" between the proud acclaim of parents and the extremely tough competition of submitting to national publications. Volunteers read and adjudicate submissions for the journals, and book launch parties for each issue give young authors a chance to read before the public - another learning experience.

Young Writers is trying to expand throughout Whatcom County. The Ferndale Boys and Girls Club is now home to a group of kids working on making podcasts. Expansion into Lynden, Blaine, Everson and other areas is really dependent on finding enough volunteers.

All this takes time and money. Currently, there are about 30 volunteers, one of whom is our Bellingham Branch member Pam Sankey. Monetary donations are welcomed, and come from both individuals and businesses in the community. Go online to Whatcom Young Writers Web page to order *Snippets*, the journal for teenagers. 

## AAUW Bellingham awards its *First Northwest Indian* College Scholarship

The first AAUW-Bellingham "Empowering Women" scholarship to the NWIC Foundation was awarded in November to **Jessica Williams**. Jessica is a member of the Nooksack Indian tribe and will graduate this December with two Associate Degrees, the latest in Information Technology.

Jessica attended an internship this summer with NASA in the Aeromechanics branch. That inspired her to continue her education with an engineering emphasis. Her college involvement with the well respected NWIC Space Center Rocket Club also has given her experience and motivation to continue her career goals of attending a university in western Washington.

We will welcome her to one of our future AAUW events and we congratulate Jessica on her educational successes.

*AAUW-Bellingham NWIC  
Scholarship Committee*



Several long-time AAUW members were present to celebrate with Marian Boylan. From left, Inge Paulus, Carol Radke, Marian, Elsie Heinrick and Cathie Oberg.



Sarah Clark-Langager presents The Leese Collection catalog to Marian. The front cover is a portrait of Marian, done by Jane Hovde.

## Catalog is a big surprise for Marian Boylan at reception in her honor

A whole community managed to keep a secret from Marian Boylan.


Until its unveiling at a Nov. 22 coffee in her honor, Marian had no idea she would be presented with a catalog of the art works she has donated to Western Washington University. In the presence of about 50 guests, Marian received the first copy of the catalog from Western Gallery Director Sarah Clark-Langager, Ph.D., who was instrumental in producing the catalog and in planning the launch event in Marian's honor. She noted that while the book had been in the works for several years, they were delivered from the printer only hours before the event.



Guests Kit Spicer, Dean of the WWU College of Fine and Performing Arts, and Carol Radke visit during the reception for Marian Boylan.

Bellingham AAUW member Elsie Heinrick detailed Marian's long history as an AAUW member, and Marian received flowers from the Bellingham Branch, with thanks for her years of work for the group.

Community members present to recognize Marian included individuals from AAUW, WWU, Monday Club and others. Bouquets were a gift from Kirt Radke, son of Marian's good friend and long-time AAUW member Carol Radke.

The introduction to the 168-page catalog details Marian's life and career, her donations to Western Gallery and her activities and achievements as a member of AAUW. 



New member profile....

## Giving back to the community is the goal for Hope Rollis

By Gwen Parker

If you had to describe Hope Rollis in a single word, that word would be *persevering*.

If you could add a few more phrases, they might be: *bicycle rider, volunteer, good sense of humor, reader of murder mysteries, and someone who misses her flock of chickens.*

Back to that word, *persevering*: It took her 25 years, and 12 years of college, to get her MBA in Leadership, with a focus on diversity. Why so long to get that degree? As the saying goes: "Life is what happens when you are making other plans."

Hope was born in Spokane, spent her grade-school years in the Tri-Cities, and then moved back to Spokane in time to attend high school there. She credits her parents with being the role models who showed her the importance of getting a college education. When Hope was still in grade school, her mother started college at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, WA, later getting her four-year degree from Eastern Washington University in Cheney. Her father went back to school at the same time, and earned a drafting degree.

Hope herself started college after high school, and went for two years, but without much enthusiasm. She then joined the Navy, serving for two years. She met her husband in Adak, AK, when they both were stationed there. Her job was tracking the routes of submarines.

After the first of their two children came along, it became too difficult to juggle the schedules of a baby and two military careers, so she did not re-enlist. Over time, the Navy moved the family to Wales for three years, Hawaii for seven years, then California, and finally, Whidbey Island. During that time, Hope would take college classes. She was within a year of graduating from University of Hawaii when the Navy moved them to California, where no school offered a degree in what she had been studying.

After the move to Whidbey, Hope attended community college for a time, and then decided to come to Western Washington University in Bellingham. She commuted for 3 and a half years, becoming very road-weary, but loving school and Bellingham.

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## Wreath sales top last year!



**Dianne Davis, head of this year's wreath sale fundraiser, reports that we're going to make about \$1550 on the wreath sale. "We do have four wreaths left over at this point, so if we can sell those we'll make about \$1650" she says. We'll also get a 3% discount for selling 30% more this year, so that will be another \$50 in profit. Last year, we cleared \$1230, so we will clear at least \$370 more this year for our scholarship fund. Thanks to all our super salespeople!**

### Plan now for January meeting at the Lightcatcher Museum

On January 11 we will have a docent tour of the Vanishing Ice Exhibit at the Lightcatcher. This is a natural follow-up to our meeting of September 2012, when Exhibit Curator Barbara Matilsky spoke to us about creating the exhibit. There is also a lecture following our meeting for people who want to expand their understanding of climate change.

The cost of the tour is \$6 apiece - even if you are a Whatcom Museum member.


### Member profile...Hope Rollis

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Immediately after graduating, she started an accelerated MBA program. She was able to stay in town with a friend during the week, traveling back home on the weekends to her husband, two high school kids, seven chickens and a cat.

The marriage did not survive the separation, so Hope lives by herself in Bellingham. The chickens, unfortunately, became lunch for some coyotes. Both her children joined the Army. Her son served two tours of duty in Iraq and now lives in Texas. Her daughter, an LPN, is closer, currently stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Hope is currently looking for a job with a local nonprofit organization. "It's not about the money - it is about making a contribution," she says.

She is a passionate volunteer, giving many hours to local programs through her church. She enjoys bicycling and walking, and is an avid reader of newspapers from around the world. And while she has to concentrate on a job search right now, she says she is very likely to head back to college for more classes. 

## You are Welcome

Bellingham AAUW offers scholarships and supports numerous programs which help women and girls gain equity in all areas of life.

Everyone possessing a four-year bachelor's degree or a two-year associate's degree is welcome to become a member.

## Interest Groups

### Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham. Next meeting will be Dec. 5. Book is *The Faith Club*, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

### Dames Who Dine

Contact: Lori Smiley 360-739-1379 for time and place.

### PM Book Club

The Evening Book Group meets at 6:45 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month downstairs in the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. November book is *Lives of the Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher* by Lewis Thomas. We welcome all comers - please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526

### Simplicity Circle

Mary LeDonne will host the next meeting at her home Jan. 20, at 7:00 pm. The address is 1760 Waterside Lane Bellingham 98229

### Upcoming December Birthdays!!



- 8 Marian Boylan
- 9 Varya Grace Fish
- 19 Gwen Parker

### New membership handbooks available

The 2013-2014 membership booklets were distributed at the November general meeting, and will also be available at the December meeting at the Allied Arts festival. Those not picked will be mailed.



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