

Early Learning to be focus of November 8 meeting

Local doctors, nurses, policemen, teachers and childcare professionals are the kinds of people who belong to WELA, the Whatcom Early Learning Alliance. The members are dedicated to building a support system for Whatcom County's youngest children and their families.

Here are some facts:

- 16.3% of our Whatcom County children under 18 live in poverty-- and children under 5 are the age group most likely to live in poverty.
- 321 of our children are in foster care.

On November 8, WELA members will discuss the importance of making sure all young children in the community get the support they need for early learning. They will present more education and health data about local children and families, and describe exciting new initiatives designed to fill the opportunity gap many children experience.

The program has been organized by Jessica Sankey, a health and early education consultant who works with WELA.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. November 8 at the Bellingham YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St. Members whose last names begin with M through Z are asked to bring a snack to go with coffee and tea, which will be provided.



Membership luncheon follows October meeting

Bellingham Branch members filled a room at Anthony's Hearthfire Restaurant for a no-host meal following a presentation on memoir writing, given by Sara Geballe (*see related article, page 3.*) Shown, from back, are Robin Kagan, Liz Wright, Pat Banasky, Catherine Chambers, Carol Simmer and Lila Brumback.

Welcome to our new members!

Bellingham Branch welcomes our newest members: Roni Lenore, Barbara Ellis-Quinn, and Barbara Silversmith.

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.



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 **MONICA ACKERMAN
& CHERILYN JACKSON**
- 15 **JOANNE MACKAY**
- 16 **INGEBORG PAULUS**
- 28 **MARY JANE VETTER**
- 30 **ARLENE PILCHER**



There is still time - if you hurry - to order holiday wreaths.

Orders must be in to Dianne Davis by November 3. The price will remain the same as last year, \$25 apiece. All orders must be emailed to Dianne by November 3. Contact her at diannedavis46@gmail.com or phone 206-719-8212.

Pick-up will be between November 18 and 24 at Susan Moen's daughter's house in Edgemoor, just as last year.

Last year, we cleared over \$1700.

Think about selling to friends or businesses, buying for yourself, or buying some to give as gifts.

Do you have your handbook?

Bellingham Branch Membership handbooks for the 2014-2015 year were distributed at the October general meeting. If you did not get one, they will be available again at the November meeting at the YWCA. Any remaining unclaimed handbooks will be mailed out.

Getting a nudge to do our history lessons....

by Gwen Parker



Branch member Cathie Oberg, left, and guest speaker Sara Geballe discuss samples of memoirs Sara has helped clients create.

“No one else knows the stories of your life like you do, and only you can reflect on the wisdom gained and lessons learned during the journey.”

This is one of ten reasons Sara Geballe gave members of AAUW - Bellingham Branch for writing one's memoirs.

Sara, a professional writer and creator of a local service called Memoir Crafters, spoke at the October general meeting. She brought several examples of different finished products, which can include scans of photos and mementos. Using samples from old letters, for example, can both tell a story and preserve the actual handwriting of a family member. Some people create complete



From left, Elsie Heinrick, Mary Jane Vetter and new Branch member Roni Lenore share results of their “writing assignments.”

books, and some create “legacy letters,” which focus on philosophy of life more than events.

Many members said they knew they should preserve their history for future generations, but few had actually begun the process. Everyone listened attentively as Sara described her process for helping clients construct their memoirs. She stressed that each person has a unique situation. She usually begins by taping several hours of interviews with each person, but some people just need help with organizing papers they already have.

To get the creative juices flowing, Sara gave everyone the task of writing about one or two memories, and trying to use all five senses, as well as feelings, to describe the topic.

Will someone take up the project of writing their personal history? Perhaps next year, we'll be hearing a member read from her memoir! 🌸🌸🌸

College scholarship recipients send letters of thanks

Four recipients of Bellingham Branch AAUW scholarships have sent us letters of thanks. Here are some excerpts, and a bit of information they have shared about themselves:

Han Cao is from China, and came to the United States in 2009. She is studying chemistry at Western Washington University. She wrote, "My parents are not able to support the expense of college, so I am working three jobs with my school and research...With this scholarship, I can cut down on my working hours and put more time into my classes and research, which will help me get into grad school."

She continued, "Thank you again for your generous contribution. It is my honor to receive such recognition from you. The thing that is the most important to me is not the money you offered to me but the trust you put in me. Now it is my responsibility to repay your trust with my success in the future. Once that day comes, I will be following your path by helping other students to be successful."

A second Western student, **Jessica Swan Ulmer**, comes from Naches, WA, and is an English major studying creative writing. She has volunteered at the Whatcom Boys and Girls Club, as well as on campus. She works with two campus publications, *Labyrinth* and *Jeopardy Magazine*. She said, "I am truly grateful for your support. It is heartening to know that there are people who care about the progress of my education."

Bonita Chiono attends Bellingham Technical College and is majoring in accounting. She wrote, "Thank you for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give something back to others."

Our scholarship recipient at Whatcom Community College is **Lindsey Helms**. She wrote: "The decision to return to school after several years of working to study nursing is one that I am so happy that I made. However, the financial burden of leaving a steady job to start a new career is sometimes scary and stressful. This scholarship will truly make this process easier and less overwhelming."

As of this writing, the selection process for scholarships at Northwest Indian College has narrowed the field to three potential recipients. 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸

Reminders: *The YWCA is happy to accept gently used clothing to stock their Back to Work Boutique. Items may be brought to the Nov. 8 AAUW meeting.*

Curl up with a good used book: Bring in some used books for our sale table -- a great way to share what you have read, and to find some new treasures. Sales benefit our scholarship fund.



Our WCC scholarship recipient, Lindsey Helms, and Bellingham Branch President Gwen Parker bond at the college foundation breakfast in early October.



Guests at Adelante! Discussion leader Jo Pullen surprised Adelante! book club members with a visit from three “subject experts,” professional dog trainer Michael Nichols, therapy dog owner Marilyn Dunne, and her dog Tommy. Marilyn is a registered Pet Partner and evaluator. The October book selection was *A Dog Walks Into a Nursing Home: Lessons in the Good Life from an Unlikely Teacher*. Thanks to Jo for her inspired addition to our meeting. (Photo by Varya Fish)

Former AAUW member passes away

Amelia Ann Pryor died Oct. 17, 2014. According to the Bellingham Herald, she was born in 1928 in Texas. Before moving to Bellingham in 1991, she raised a family, painted, sculpted, and worked creating city gardens in Philadelphia, taught high school in New Hampshire, -and finished graduate school at Claremont College in California. Amelia spent several years abroad living in Greece, and southern Spain. She was a Bellingham Branch member until 2004.

Interest Groups

Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis’s Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. The November/December meeting will be Dec. 4. The book is *A Strange Stirring*, by Stephanie Coontz (analysis of *The Feminine Mystique* and author Betty Freidan.) Reviewer will be Helene Berg-Kolin. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

New Group!!

Coffee and Conversation

Will meet the *third Friday* of the month (Nov. 21) at 3 pm at The Woods Coffee shop in Barkley Village (near Regal Cinema)

...and the *fourth Saturday* of the month (Nov. 22) 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 Nov. 13th book is *The Invention of the Jewish People*, by Schlomo Sand 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!



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 2014-2015**

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*December meeting set
 at Jansen
 Art Center
 in Lynden*



*Expect music, a
 tour of the center
 and a chance to shop in
 the sales gallery* when Bellingham AAUW
 holds its **holiday meeting at Jansen Art Center,
 Dec. 13. The center is in the old Firehall, at
 321 Front St. in Lynden.**

The building is handicapped accessible.
Carpooling will be arranged for those who
 want it. Contact Gwen Parker.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., upstairs in the
 Library. **Everyone is asked to bring their
 favorite holiday cookies, to munch on and
 exchange.** Coffee will be provided by JAC.

AAUW member Robin Kagan will provide a
 musical program, and a **JAC docent** will lead a
 tour of the historic building.

The art center opened in 2012, but the 1920's era
 building began life as the Lynden City Hall and
 Firehall. When it was renovated to become the
 art center, many of the historic features were
 retained.

Regional artists are invited to exhibit and sell
 their original works at the Jansen Art Center. A
 Fine Arts Gallery and numerous gallery walls
 throughout the J provide great spaces to view a
 wide variety of art.