

Memoir Writing to be topic for October meeting

“If you don’t tell your life story, who will?”

That is the question Sara Geballe asks when talking about writing one’s memoirs, or personal history.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, Sara will teach us about different ways to capture our own life stories, or those of loved ones, in order to preserve legacies for future



generations. “If we don’t write our stories, they will surely disappear with us,” Sara says. She will offer fun prompts to trigger memories and get our stories flowing. She will also explain how a professional personal historian can facilitate the process of writing a memoir book or a legacy letter (also known as an ethical will). The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 11, at the Bellingham YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St. Guests are welcome. **Members whose last names begin with letters A through M are asked to bring snacks.** Coffee and tea will be furnished. *~~~~~*



Back by popular request.....

Membership luncheon to follow October general meeting

It's the time of year for our annual Member Luncheon, a chance to welcome newer members of the branch and for all members to get re-connected after the summer hiatus. We'll have time to chat and dine in the scenic waterfront setting of Anthony's Hearthfire, in Squalicum Harbor near the Bellwether Hotel. We will gather on Saturday, October 11, at 12:30, after the general meeting at the YWCA.

This is a no-host luncheon.

If you're interested in joining the group, please RSVP to Liz Wright at lswrights@gmail.com as soon as possible or no later than Thursday, October 9. If you are uncertain about the location of Anthony's Hearthfire or need a ride, please let a board member know and we'll get you the help you need. *~~~~~*

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September meeting: We all had fun with math and science

by Gwen Parker

Everyone from school kids to grandmas became scientific researchers when Dr. Rebecca Bunn spoke at the September AAUW meeting.

Special guests at the meeting, along with their families and teachers, were three middle school girls our branch sent to Tech Trek science camp last summer. These guests were in the thick of things when Dr. Bunn, Professor of Environmental Sciences at Huxley College, divided her audience into groups to create Venn diagrams to investigate the question, "Is science a good field for women?"

As each group reported out, some interesting points came to light, such as: young women in school today feel equally capable to their male counterparts, when it comes to learning math and science. This is different from earlier generations of women, who often felt intimidated to try the advanced math and science courses.

Program Co-chair Pam Sankey has saved our Venn diagrams for further discussion.

Dr. Bunn spoke on "Women in Science" and about encouraging young women to study for careers in science,



Inge Paulus and Sue McDonald watch guest Brynna Kilcline get down to work on a group project.



Dr. Rebecca Bunn, Jane Morgan and Pam Sankey listen to new member Barbara Silversmith report on team observations, with help from Tech Trek participant Bianca Squillante.

technology, engineering and math. Tech Trek scholarship recipients Tessa Kilcline, Emily Newcomer and Bianca Squillante joined her at the podium to talk about their experiences at the summer camp. All three indicated that they had felt a little unsure of what they were getting into, before they attended the camp. And all said that once there,

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“Women in Science” is September meeting theme

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they enjoyed themselves and got new ideas about possible career paths. (Plans are being discussed for a second Washington State camp location next year in the Spokane area.)

Also introduced at the meeting was Kim Lund, executive director of the Bellingham Public School Foundation. She explained how this philanthropic group provides additional resources for enrichment activities, vital materials, support and opportunities for Bellingham students. Its goal is to ensure an excellent education for every student in every school.



Rebecca Bunn, PhD, Professor of Environmental Sciences, WWU’s Huxley College, was guest speaker at the September AAUW meeting.



Clockwise from bottom: Helene Berg-Kolin, Susan Moen, guest Peggy Stephens from Shuksan Middle School, and Maggie Moore build a Venn diagram.



Bellingham Public School foundation Director Kim Lund joins her former teacher, Dan Bailey, and his Kulshan Middle School students Emily Newcomer and Tessa Kilcline.



"Coffee and Conversation" groups hold first two meetings

"Coffee hours" turned into "coffee hour-and-a-halves" when our new interest groups -- informal meetings at local coffee shops -- got off to a small but enjoyable start in September.

Not too many people turned up, but those who did got a chance to get to know each other a little better. And, we learned things: Cathie Oberg, who is on the board of directors for WECU, gave us some insights on credit unions; Sue McDonald told about getting certified as a caregiver. Why not come to one of these coffees in October and share your own insights with others? (See times and places below.)



Happy October Birthdays!!

- 12 Margaret Philbrick
- 16 Louise Bjornson
- 18 Hope Rollis
- 20 Maggie Moore
- 21 Sherry Thompson



Interest Groups

Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday. October 23rd book is *A Dog Walks Into a Nursing Home*, by Sue Halpern. Jo Pullen will be discussion leader. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

New Group!!

Coffee and Conversation

Will meet the *third Friday* of the month at 3 pm at The Woods Coffee shop in Barkley Village (near Regal Cinema) ...and the *fourth Saturday* of the month 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 downstairs in the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven. Oct. 9th book is *A Delicate Truth*, by John Le Carre. 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!

New Handbooks!

New member handbooks should be available at the October general meeting. Come and get yours!

Member profile...**There's never an empty moment in Robin Kagan's day**

by Gwen Parker

"I was born independent," says Robin Kagan, as a way to partially explain a life that has seen her leave home at an early age, move from New York all the way across the country, and then to Hawaii. Robin seems to live her life in overdrive-- how else to explain a tendency to work three jobs at once while raising a daughter and going to college?



She admits, now, that an older and wiser Robin might not have made some of the adventurous choices she made back in the 70's, but it is easy to see that the desire to try new things is still there.

Robin's first home was in Bethpage, NY. She has an older brother and a younger sister, and dealt with some of the issues of being a middle child. She recalls one of her happiest childhood years when she was eight, and the family moved to Pennsylvania. While a new house was being built for them, they lived in the country and had the Great Outdoors to play in, building forts and playing ball with neighbor kids.

Raised in a family that attended synagogue regularly and celebrated the High Holidays, she says The Ten Commandments were well-impressed into her, so that she still lives by them. In her work helping people with financial protection through long-term care and life insurance, as well as annuities, she says she always wants to be an advocate for her clients.

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Member profile...

Life is always busy for Robin Kagan

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Insurance is a long way from Robin's first job. She got a work permit and started selling Fuller Brush products when she was only 13. Her parents divorced when she was 12, and she moved with her mother and sister to Fort Lee, NJ -- near the now-famous George Washington Bridge that has been central to New Jersey politics.

Robin loved crossing that bridge to enjoy the bustle of New York City, and at age 17, she left her mother's small apartment to work as a cook and maid, in exchange for a place to stay in a New York meditation commune. Members of the group were not only into meditation, but also vegetarianism. They started the Alive Kitchen, and Robin worked in the bakery at night and attended City College by day. Her father also had gone to school there.

Music is a mainstay

Robin played the piano from age four, and took up the flute in high school. Drawn, she says, by the music of the Beach Boys, she left City College and moved to the West Coast. She made connections through work at another vegetarian restaurant, and was invited to move to Hawaii, where she lived for two years. That is where her daughter was born. However, the relationship with her daughter's father ended, and Robin missed the mainland. She moved to Seattle and went back to school at the University of Washington. She supported herself as a building manager and waitress, and eventually earned her degree in English. She also took communications classes, and did an internship writing press releases. She worked in advertising sales for 11 years, and then switched to selling insurance, which she says has been rewarding both in her relationships with customers, and in perks such as trips and conventions.

Robin moved to Bow when her daughter's Seattle school started to get a little rough. She met her husband Ralph after she moved to Whatcom County, and she also became very close to his daughter, who now lives in Sitka. The other love of her life is a ten-year-old grandson, who lives in Florida. She sees and talks to him often.

Moving to Whatcom County also resulted in her becoming a member of the Mary Knight hospital auxiliary and a musical group, Whatcom Sound. She has developed a love of jazz, and has studied with Greta Matassa and Jennifer Scott. Four years ago she began singing solo and currently sings with Paul Sorenson's SwingStreet Band. She is honing her jazz piano skills, so that she can add that to her performances. As if that were not enough, she has ordered a mandolin, and can't wait to learn to play it.



She has also added a new wrinkle to her business life, now including Real Estate to help new and existing clients with life transitions, such as moves to smaller homes.

And one more thing: If you need a Spanish-speaker, Robin does that, too! 🌀🌀🌀

Marian Boylan receives Silver Spotlight award

Long-time AAUW member Marian Boylan was honored on Sept. 24 with the Silver Spotlight Award from the Washington Health Care Association. It was presented by Lauri St. Ours, WHCA Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs.

Friends from AAUW and Monday Club were among those attending a tea where Marian received the award. She is one of 14 honorees from around the state, and will be invited to a reception with Governor Jay Inslee at the Governor’s Mansion in December.



Marian Leese Boylan sits near the colorful glass plaque denoting her Silver Spotlight award.

The WHCA Silver Spotlight program is designed to recognize and thank remarkable residents in skilled nursing and assisted living care who have made outstanding contributions to their community or the nation.



A graduate of University of Washington, with majors in history and journalism, Marian has worked for newspapers, radio, and locally, for KVOS-TV. After her husband passed away, she went back to college and earned an M.A. in English. She then taught English in two universities in China.

She became a life member of AAUW in 1956, and has served as Bellingham Branch president, a member of the state board and the National AAUW Board of Directors. She has served on the Washington State Humanities Commission.

Marian’s parents, Alexander and Vera Leese, were world travelers and amassed an impressive art collection. In 2005, Marian gave most of it to Western Washington University. In the fall of 2013, Western published a comprehensive catalog of the collection. ~~~~~

You are 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.



Wreath sale to be short -- let's make it sweet!

“A long way to go, and a short time to get there....”

Well, the line from the old truckin' song just seemed to fit the circumstances..... It is time again to sell holiday wreaths, and our **orders need to be in by Nov. 3!**

This is one of our two major fundraisers each year. **Dianne Davis** is once again heading up this event. The price will remain the same, **\$25 apiece**. All orders must be emailed to Dianne by November 3. Pick-up will be between November 18 and 24 at Susan Moen's daughter's house in Edgemoor, just as last year.

Order forms are available from Dianne. Contact her at diannedavis46@gmail.com or phone 206-719-8212.

Last year, we cleared over \$1700, and of course, we hope to meet or beat that amount this year.

Be thinking about selling to friends or business, buying for yourself, or buying some to give as gifts.



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2014-2015**

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