

AAUW Bellingham

Members connect with Compass 2 Campus

by Gwen Parker

When Bellingham Branch members heard Cyndie Shepard speak at the November meeting, it was as if someone had put a plug in a socket, and all the lights flashed on. This may be a strong new connection in our mission of education.

Cyndie is a Branch member whom we don't generally see at meetings. As wife of the President of Western Washington University, she supports AAUW, but her schedule doesn't give her a lot of free time. This time, however, she joined us to speak about her passion: Compass 2 Campus, a program that sends trained college students to low-income schools to help kids see that they can aim for college, too.

The college students earn credit while they serve as mentors and role models for kids in fifth through twelfth grades. They work in the classrooms and join the younger students for lunchtime and recess.

In speaking to a group of college-educated women, many of whom are teachers, Cyndie could not have had a more engaged audience. An educator herself, she holds a BA from California State University-Fullerton and an MA from Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles.

Cyndie told her audience that the mentoring project first began in Green Bay, Wisconsin, when her husband became chancellor of the university there. She toured a local grade school, and had an interaction with an angry little boy who assumed his future was in

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prison, "Just like my Dad." This disturbed her so much that she and a friend brainstormed a way to help children see their own potential, and to stay in school. That initial program was called Phuture Phoenix, and is being used successfully today in Wisconsin.

Soon after the Shepards moved to Western, Cyndie was invited to
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Cyndie Shepard, Compass 2 Campus Director

Compass to Campus is expanding

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present an overview of the program to the Higher Education Board in Olympia. A bill was passed by the Legislature in 2009, making Compass 2 Campus a pilot program at WWU. As director of the program, Cyndie spends as many as 70 hours each week to keep things running smoothly. You begin to understand how passionate she is about it, when you learn she is an unpaid volunteer.

It costs about \$35,000 a year to run the program. As one Branch member commented, this is less than the cost of keeping one person in prison for a year. It is easy to see that it is more cost effective to bring youngsters to college and a productive career than to house them in prison. All the funds for C2C come from community donors, and a fund-raising reception is held each year. (Donations also may be made through the WWU Foundation.)

When the students start Compass 2 Campus in fifth grade, they are given a tour day at Western. This past October, about 900 students descended upon the campus one day to visit everything from the Viking experimental car project to the drama school to computer labs, and more. About 400 WWU students accompanied them.

Does the program work? In Green Bay, where the program has been established long enough to get meaningful data, one study found that truancy dropped dramatically on the days the college students were at the elementary and junior high schools, and returned to regular levels on other days. Also, the high school graduation rate is up.



Here in Washington, the program has expanded into Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College and Northwest Indian College, as well as into Skagit County. The importance of the program also was marked when it received the President's Service Award of Distinction last spring.

Cyndie extended an open invitation to Bellingham Branch members to assist at the next October campus visit, as guides and security monitors to help ensure the students have a safe and happy experience, as they start what we hope will be the road to college graduation.

Searching for a better sound

Many thanks to Brenda Karasik, our program chair, who is updating our audio capabilities at the YWCA. The executive board recently approved the purchase of some new equipment, and a new microphone stand was in use for the first time at the November general meeting. (Brenda reports that several members said they wondered why we hadn't bought one long ago!)

Next will come either a new or repaired microphone.

*Focus on new members -
This month:
Alexandra DeBoer*

I'm a lifelong resident of Whatcom County, and graduated from Western Washington University in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology.

I've worked as a medical technician and a legal assistant. I am currently a full time mother of two, whom I homeschool.

Besides homeschooling my kids, I enjoy writing, running, and hiking.



(Campus photo courtesy
Compass 2 Campus program)

Custom Crafts, Tasty Treats, and Art - Oh My!!



Enjoy a festive, fun event. Our annual December meeting/cookie exchange is Dec. 8th, from noon until you finish browsing (and buying) the wonderful holiday offerings at the Allied Arts Annual **Holiday Festival of the Arts**. Our branch will have its own meeting area. We share our cookies and goodies while three participating artists tell us about their craft/art. After we finish the presentation and goodies, the “ohhh and ahhh” time begins. Explore the broad variety of quality gifts.

Mark your calendarthis is a Do Not Miss Event.

The Festival has a NEW location - 1200 Meador St Bellingham (behind Civic Stadium)

From N State St

1. Head northeast on N State St toward Meador Ave
2. Take the 1st right onto Meador Ave
3. Turn left onto Fraser St
4. Take the 1st left onto Moore St
5. Turn right onto Meador Ave
Large brick building on the right

From Lakeway Dr

1. Head east on Lakeway Dr toward Lincoln St
2. Take the 1st left onto Lincoln St
3. Turn right onto Fraser St
4. Take the 1st left onto Moore St
5. Moore will turn right onto Meador
Large brick building on the right

Bellingham Technical College Celebrates New Campus Center

*by Carol Simmer
College Relations Chair*

Constructed in two years instead of the projected four years, this beautiful, new Campus Center in the heart of Bellingham Technical College meets many needs of BTC students. I attended the Grand Opening event on

October 25th. Along with several hundred people, I enjoyed the Culinary Arts' myriad of hors d'oeuvres and truffles along with wine donated by Dunham Cellars. We also enjoyed a program in the building's Settlemyer Hall, which is the first and only large room on campus to accommodate large and small groups at one time.



The program contained much information about the new building. One of the many facts mentioned: 70 % of the materials and contractors involved came from our local community.

The building has three floors. The top floor houses the library, learning center, and ASBTC Student Center and offices. The second floor has the Business and Computer Information Systems, Computer Network Technology, and classrooms/offices. The main floor contains Settlemyer Family Hall, campus store, coffee shop, Cafe Culinaire Restaurant, Woodstone Kitchen (you can watch the activity in the kitchen), and the state of the art Culinary Arts Teaching Kitchen.

It was a lovely evening, I felt good about the work done and the goals set for BTC in the future. I am proud that AAUW-Bellingham supports BTC students with a scholarship agreement.

Christmas Wreaths

Once again, Bellingham AAUW members show their support for scholarships and one another. We've sold 100 fresh, Washington State wreaths. Best of all, this sale made \$1230 for our scholarship fund.



Dianne Davis will let buyers know the delivery date and pick-up location as soon as she gets that information.

YOU ARE WELCOME

Our 60 members strong Bellingham AAUW branch offers scholarships to local area institutes of higher learning: WWU, WCC, and BTC. We are in the final stages of establishing a scholarship for the NWIC (Northwest Indian College). Throughout the year, we support local programs and events which help women and girls gain equity in all areas of life.

All women possessing a four-year bachelor's degree or a two-year associate's degree are welcome to become members. You may attend three events before deciding to join. Ask us what we do at local, state, and national levels to advance equity for women and girls.

January theater tour planned

"From ghoulies and ghosties

And long-legged beasties

And things that go bump in the night

Good Lord, deliver us!"

- Traditional Scottish Prayer

You may need to brush up on the above prayer before January 12th. That is the date for our tour of the historic Mt. Baker Theatre in downtown Bellingham. It is said there are ghosts that haunt the place, so we'd better be prepared!

We'll be guided through all the backstage nooks and crannies, and for those who are less nimble, an alternate tour, with the same information, will be available.

Mark 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, on your calendar. 104 N. Commercial St., Bellingham.



Mt. Baker Theater

photo courtesy Bellingham Whatcom Tourism -bellingham.org

**AAUW Executive Board Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2012****4:00 p.m. Bellingham YWCA**
(slightly abridged for space)

The meeting was called to order by co-president Gwen Parker. Members present were Sharlene Joshua, Brenda Karasik, Elsie Heinrick, Sue McDonald, Gwen Parker, Carol Simmer, and Liz Wright.

Old Business

The minutes of the September 25th Executive meeting and the October 3rd Branch meeting were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer - Sue reported that the savings account balance is \$15,527.66 and the checking account balance is \$6,234.16. Elsie suggested that we look into whether WECU has a CD or other account that would earn more interest on some of the money sitting in the checking account.

The branch does have a resellers permit. Carol applied for it and Sue found it in her paperwork. It is good through October 2014.

Program - Brenda stated that the branch needs a stand for the microphone and a remote control for power point presentations. She thinks that both could be purchased for about \$100.00. Elsie moved that the board allow Brenda to spend up to \$200.00 for those two items. The motion passed.

Membership - The board consensus was that the new member luncheon was well attended and went very well. Liz has updated the membership roster and brought several current copies for board members. The branch now has 60 paid members. Gwen is working on the directory. The list of committees to list in the new directory was discussed. Carol will check to see which standing committees are listed in the bylaws.

Newsletter - Sue reported that the distribution problems seem to have been worked out.

Website - Gwen would like to apply for AAUW national website support if we can

update it ourselves. It costs \$120.00 per year. It was moved that the branch use and pay for the website support from national. The motion passed. The application asks for names of other contributors. Brenda consented to have her name on the application along with Gwen.

University Relations - Carol represented the branch at the grand opening of the new campus center at Bellingham Technical College on October 24th.

CFUW- Carol and three other branch members attended the White Rock/Surrey annual bursary foundation luncheon at the Morgan Creek Golf Course on Oct. 20th.

Wreath Sale- All orders should be sent in to Dianne Davis by Nov. 4th.

Volunteers - The branch needs a nominating committee, a hospitality chair and someone to sell used books at the general meetings. Members with last names starting with the letters A-L are asked to bring finger food to the next meeting. The board questioned whether members wish to have food or coffee at the meetings. Of the \$5.00 meeting dues, \$15.00 goes for set up and \$ 30.00 goes to building rental. The remainder of the money could be spent to purchase coffee and/or refreshments. No decision was made and the discussion was tabled.

New Business

Girls Go Tech- The branch has received a request to support this program with the same contribution as last year. It was moved that the branch donate \$500.00 again this year to the Girls Go Tech program at WCC. The motion passed.

Christmas at Hycroft- Elsie announced that the dates for this annual CFUW fund raiser are November 15-18 this year. She will make an announcement at the next meeting and possibly the branch could arrange a carpool if there are enough members who would like to attend. Gwen adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by branch secretary,
Sharlene Joshua

New Members : We would like to know you better.

Please send us a two or three paragraph biography and a photo. Knowing one another helps keep us strong and vibrant. Email your biography to to Sue McDonald.

Thank you, Pam Sankey and Alexandra De Boer for your recent profiles.

Women's Discussion Group



The Women's Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 - 9:30 pm. (Later time to allow for Dames Who Dine)

The topic is "Holiday Stress". Questions will be emailed the week before and be available at the general December AAUW meeting.

Location: Helene's - Please RSVP

New membership booklets available

New Bellingham Branch AAUW membership booklets were distributed at the November general meeting, and will be available again at the December meeting at the Allied Arts Festival.

Any members who have not picked up their booklet at either meeting, will receive one in the mail.

The booklet contains basic information about the national AAUW program, and a little history of Bellingham Branch. It also contains a member roster, with contact information. If you find any errors, please contact Liz Wright.

Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525
Cornwall Ave. in downtown
Bellingham, at noon.
Nov. 29 book: *A Little Bit of Wisdom*,
by Horace Axtell
Jan. 3 Poetry by Mary Oliver, Billy
Collins, Stanley Kunitz and local
author Dorothy Regal
Contact: Gwen Parker 3

PM Book Club

Meets at 7:15 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday
of the month at Colophon Restaurant,
1208 11th St. in Fairhaven
Contact: Rosemary Hostetler

Women Who Walk & Wine

Walk on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm..
Locations vary.
Contact: Cindi Paffumi

Dames Who Dine

Contact: Lori Smiley

Women's Discussion Group

Contact: Helene Berg-Kolin

**AAUW BELLINGHAM
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AAUW

because
equity
is
still
an **issue**