

*Member profile....*

### New Branch secretary has a world of stories to tell

*by Gwen Parker*

European by ancestry, Peruvian by birth, and American by circumstance, Lila Brumback has an interesting history, and a busy life.

She came to Bellingham from California in 2005, and soon began a career in real estate. But that was not her first career -



*Lila Brumback*

Let's begin further back: Lila's grandparents on her father's side emigrated to Peru as children. *(cont. on page 4)*



*Trekker at PLU*

### New AAUW season begins Sept. 14th

"AAUW Bellingham Supports Going to College – Let Us Count the Ways" is the topic for our first Fall meeting, set Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the YWCA, 1026 N. Forest, Bellingham. Featured speaker will be Karen Manelis, coordinator of the AAUW Tech Trek summer science & technology camp, discussing the importance of early introductions to science. Also featured will be highlights of the national convention and information on fellowships, grants and scholarships. Come enjoy good company and get the season off to a lively start!

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## Happy Birthday!

Special birthday congratulations to  
**Ruth Stone Glaser,**  
who turned **96** on July 25th!

Ruth originally belonged to the Corvallis, OR branch of AAUW, and transferred her membership to Bellingham when she moved here in the late 80's. Ruth is a member of our Adelante Book Group. She also enjoys photography and music. She used to play the violin, but put that aside when her fingers got too stiff.

She was born in Minneapolis, MN, and moved with her parents to the little college town of Mayville in North Dakota, when she was four years old. Since she was of college age during the Great Depression, she was lucky to be able to live at home and get her degree from what is now Mayville State University. Like our local university, Mayville began as a normal school.

After graduating, Ruth taught English and Social Studies at the high school and junior high school levels. Her first husband, Bill Stone, was a math professor at Oregon State University. Knowing that a case of the mumps had left him unable to father children, the couple agreed before they were married that they would consider adoption.

Expecting to be matched with a baby boy from Asia, they were surprised when the caseworker instead asked them if they would consider two little girls from Morocco. The caseworker said she would step outside while they talked it over, but Bill and Ruth looked at each other and said they needed no time - the answer was "Yes." The sisters, Karen and Taylor, were six and seven years old at the time. Today, one lives in Idaho, and the other in North Dakota.

While in Corvallis, Ruth campaigned for increased testing of children for hidden learning disabilities. She testified at legislative hearings that a high percentage of children in juvenile detention had undiagnosed conditions.

After 16 years of marriage, Ruth's husband passed away. She stayed in Corvallis, and eventually met Ray Glaser. Ray's wife had died, and while traveling through Corvallis he decided to contact Ruth, because he had known her first husband. Ruth says, with a twinkle, he thought "if she was good enough for Bill, I'll bet she'd be good enough for me!"

Ray worked for Boeing, eventually bought a ranch in the Sumas area, and later moved into Bellingham. Ruth also worked at Boeing, in the personnel department at the historic Plant Two. Ray has passed away, and Ruth now lives in a light-filled apartment at Parkway Chateau.



## Celebrating 50 Years in AAUW

By Liz Wright

**Joanne MacKay and Carol Radke** are the most recent Bellingham Branch members to achieve Honorary Life Member status in AAUW. After 50 years of membership in AAUW, they can rightly take pride in their work on behalf of women and girls. Their years of association with AAUW have given them a unique perspective on the effectiveness of AAUW as an organization, which is worth noting.

Both of them joined for fellowship and the chance to meet other women in higher education, and women who had professional careers. At that time, there were not many organizations that offered that opportunity. Carol and Joanne both have good memories of the years of hard work on the AAUW Book Sale, which was a good way to get to know their fellow members better, working alongside them to earn money for scholarships.

They acknowledged that AAUW gave both of them the support they needed to continue in their education and be successful in their careers. In Joanne's case, she received a scholarship after completing high school in St. Louis, given by "The College Club," which later became part of AAUW. Carol states that she really appreciated the support fellow branch members gave her as she assumed her position on the Bellingham School Board. This support resulted in valuable feedback for Carol, while also keeping branch members more informed.

Through their experiences, both women agree that, in Carol's words, "AAUW has accomplished its mission." Joanne mentioned the work that the local branch does with programs like Tech Trek and High School Scholars, which recognize and nurture the interests of younger girls in STEM careers. Carol has had first hand experience with the work that AAUW has done to further the education and careers of women through its social and financial support of women in higher education.

Thank you to you both for your work with the Bellingham Branch and your work to further AAUW's mission!

Also eligible for 50-year status is **Jane Morgan**. A paperwork issue has delayed the official notice.

*See you in September?*

## Simplicity Circle dates scheduled

The new Simplicity Circle will meet on the third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m.

The first meeting will be Monday, September 16. The group will follow the book *Simplicity Lessons: A 12-Step Guide to Living Simply* by Linda Breen Pierce (Gallagher Press, 2003) for its discussions.

Participants are requested to read the first chapter in preparation for the first meeting. Discussion leaders will rotate.

Meetings will be held at the home of Helene Berg-Kolin, 3104 Vallette Street, Cornwall Park area, two blocks north of Haggan, two blocks east of Meridian, north of West Oregon, south of Victor.

RSVPs are required to Dianne Davis at [diannedavis46@gmail.com](mailto:diannedavis46@gmail.com) or 206/719-8212 or to Helene at [hbergkolin@gmail.com](mailto:hbergkolin@gmail.com) or 360/392-8856.



**Member profile - Lila Brumback***(cont. from Page 1)*

Her grandfather was a physician, as were several other members of the family. Their origins were French-Basque and German.

Lila's mother was English and Italian, and her maternal grandfather was a chemist. He came to Peru to build a factory, but as it was told to her, he disappeared into the jungles and was not seen for 20 years.

His wife, Lila's grandmother, was left with a family to support, and no money. She opened a boarding house and eked out a living, eventually remarrying, since it was assumed her first husband was dead.

But - 20 years later he returned. How he had spent those years is evidently unknown, because he didn't receive a kind welcome from the woman he had left behind.

**Beautiful La Punta**

Lila was born in Lima, but grew up in La Punta, an historic residential district of the city of Callao. It is on a peninsula settled mainly by Italian immigrants. Known for its beautiful beaches and great harbor, La Punta is home to four regatta clubs and is a mecca for boaters.

Lila says that she feels at home in Bellingham, because the beautiful seaside location and the climate are much like those of La Punta. She lived there until she was 17, when political unrest caused her father to send her and her siblings out of the country. Her sister went to Venezuela and her brother went to Canada. Lila was able to go to Georgetown University on a diplomatic visa. She earned a B.Sc in Linguistics, graduating magna-cum-laude. She subsequently earned an MBA in Finance from American University.

**Banking career**

She went into commercial banking and then corporate finance. From there she moved into investment banking, last leaving Citicorp Investment Bank as a vice president in Research and Development for Financial Institutions. She was uneasy about leaving her little daughter, Genevieve, with babysitters, and because of her business success as a professional investor, she was able to stay home for 16 years to raise her daughter. She also attended Claremont Graduate University to pursue a PhD in Public Policy and World Politics. Skipping the dissertation, she left Claremont with a M.Sc. (ABD). During this time she served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for updating the General Plan for the city of Claremont.

In 2005 she moved to Bellingham to be close to British Columbia where her brother, and only relative in North America, has settled. Her now-grown daughter attended Western Washington

*(cont. on Page 5)*

**Lila Brumback**

*(cont. from Page 4)*

University, and is now in graduate school in California. Lila hopes her sister will also be able to come to the U.S. There is a quota for immigrants from Venezuela, and she is awaiting her turn.

In her spare time, Lila is an avid reader, of everything from Jane Austen novels to linguistics textbooks. Her creative outlet is beading: she makes many of her own necklaces, and says the skill has also been useful for making gifts for her daughter’s friends. Lila has also taken on the job of AAUW Bellingham secretary.

As part of her work, Lila enjoys writing a monthly analysis of the local real estate market and teaching seminars as part of the services she provides her clients. She particularly enjoys helping first time buyers navigate the real estate market.



Bellingham Branch

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**New members join Bellingham Branch**

**Welcome to Hope Rollis and Catherine Chambers!**

Happy Summer Birthdays!

July:

- 2 Helene Berg-Kolin
- 3 Carol Simmer
- 25 Ruth Stone Glaser
- 26 Catherine Oberg

August:

- 3 Esther Golde
- 15 Elsie Heinrick
- 24 Pam Sankey



## Interest Groups

### Adelante! Book Club

Meets at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month. Book for September is *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers.. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker 360-933-4314.

### Dames Who Dine

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

### Do-It-Yourself Walking Group

The former Women Who Walk and Wine is closed, but persons who wish to meet at 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays at the Bellwether, are encouraged to do so. There is no leader at this time.

### 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. September book is *Stubborn Twig* by Lauren Kessler. We welcome all comers. Please join us. Contact: Barb Craig, 360-927-2526

### You are Welcome!

Anyone possessing a four-year bachelor's degree or two-year associate's degree is welcome to join AAUW. You are encouraged to attend two or three meetings while deciding whether to join.

**We support equity for women and girls in all endeavors.**

### Art tour and membership luncheon planned in October

For our October general meeting, we will tour the Western Washington University Art Gallery, and campus sculptures.

Afterwards, we will hold a no-host luncheon at a local restaurant. This has been a popular event in recent years and is a great way for new and long-term members to get to know each other. Conversations are always lively!

We will be organizing transportation to the university and the luncheon for anyone who wishes a ride.

So, mark your calendars for October 12th! More information will be forthcoming. Questions or ideas? Contact Liz Wright or Helene Berg-Kolin.

