



The official charter for the Bellingham Branch of AAUW was submitted in September 1918. The original group had 24 members.

The Fall Season is here....

Don't miss our September and October meetings!

See everything you need to know about our September 8 meeting on Page 2

See all the information for our Centennial Luncheon on Page 3.



You're invited to the September Meeting of AAUW Bellingham Branch Saturday, Sept. 8 Bellingham YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St.

Hear Branch member Teizeen Mohamedali, Environmental Engineer with the Washington State Department of Ecology, speak on "Adventures in Science and Engineering"



## Also hear Bellingham Branch Tech Trek Campers Report

Andrea Garcia, Cassy La, Mia Revey, Grace Schamber, Gillian Spilker, Emma Stewart and Jaeli Tilley, Tech Trek Campers sponsored by you, the members of Bellingham Branch as well as several local businesses and service clubs, will report about their STEM camp experiences at the September 8 meeting.

Six students attended Tech Trek Camp in July at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma while the seventh, Gillian, attended Tech Trek Camp at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. They will report on their classes including Robotics, Human Anatomy, CSI Investigation and Circuitry as well as the activities and field trips they experienced.

Pam Sankey, Tech Trek Chairperson, said, "It is timely to be hearing these eighth grade students talk about their interest in STEM education and careers just as the science world celebrates Katherine Johnson, the African-American mathematician who calculated orbital mechanics for NASA's space program, and who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Katherine Johnson was one of three women scientists at NASA who were featured in the movie, *Hidden Figures*."

Members with names A - L are asked to bring finger foods for a fairly large crowd, including the Tech Trek campers and their families.





## Centennial Celebration Luncheon

...Watch the mail for your invitation!

Current Bellingham Branch members, former members, notables from throughout the state, as well as members from the White Rock/Surrey CFUW are on the list to receive invitations to our Centennial Celebration Luncheon on October 13. (See the particulars at left.) Be sure to RSVP by Sept. 20.

Some tickets will be available via Brown Paper Tickets: https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3609857

Highlights for the event include a short presentation by the Good Time Girls about the past 100 years in Bellingham, and the premier showing of the completed video about AAUW, made by WWU students and featuring, Mary Jane Vetter, Elsie Heinrick, Rebecca Bunn, Cathie Oberg, Teizeen Mohamedali and Judith Entwife.

Wearing historical attire will be welcomed ...and, there will be birthday cake and presents!

#### Children's Books for Zimbabwe

New AAUW Member Nancy Steele is, among other things, the leader of a local Zimbabwe-style marimba band called Ruvara. (Liz Wright plays in her band). In January, Nancy and her husband will be travelling to Zimbabwe and want to take a suitcase full of children's books with them. She is asking for donations of used or new children's books. If you think you have some to donate, please contact her: <a href="mailto:nancy@ruvara.org">nancy@ruvara.org</a>. The children will thank you.

## Branch President's message

by Judith Entwife

Kids and sunshine, watermelon and ice cream, travel and home improvement—the elements of an excellent PNW summer. Now it's time to return with laser focus to our AAUW mission of promoting equity for women and girls. We have a lot of work, a lot of celebration and a lot of collegiality to look forward to.

For the last century—100 YEARS!—Bellingham AAUW members have worked to educate themselves to the issues of the day, specifically to the needs of women in education and the workplace. We get to celebrate that at our September meeting with our *Tech Trek girls*. These local girls showed their interest and accomplishment in STEM in their first two years of middle school, earning places at a week-long STEM camp on a university campus as our guests. They'll show us what they learned in our first general meeting of the year. And we have every reason to believe that they'll carry our message forward as they grow into the wider world.

Then we get to celebrate our October Centennial Lunch, looking back over what we've accomplished since a double handful of normal school women met to discuss how to give back to their community a hundred years ago. We'll revisit old friends and colleagues as well as past successes, and we'll take a look into our future.

Our monthly programs will keep us apprised of current issues and ways we can respond to them. Our working High School Scholars and Tech Trek committees will honor our local middle and high school girls, our Public Policy committee will help us understand and support policies at state and national levels to promote our goals, and our Fundraising committee will give us opportunities to raise scholarship funds for each of our four local colleges. You can be part of these working groups!

We also have groups who keep us connected with the general public and to other organizations with similar goals, who maintain our organizational history and our social connections among members, and who organize growth activities ranging from book and movie clubs to art exhibits to lessons offered by members. Please choose or create activities that speak to you and jump in.

If the nitty gritty of keeping it all going (from room rentals to feminist philosophy to training in negotiating salaries) strikes your fancy, come to our monthly board meetings and be in the room where the sausage is made. All members are invited to bring their ideas and energy. Some ideas currently being discussed: increasing our membership and engaging our members, non-profit status for our branch, intersectional feminism, student members and activities, celebrations of 100 years of the 19th Amendment (You've Come a Long Way, Baby fashion show luncheon and a Memorial Day Parade entry), working with the YWCA to upgrade meeting technology...and more.

We appreciate our members and what you have to offer. Let's all get involved in meeting our mutual goals this year.

### 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.

#### From the national AAUW newsletter

# AAUW Fellows and Grantees Making National News

The exciting work of a number of 2018–19 AAUW fellows has been featured in college and university news outlets in the past month, including in the *YaleNews*, University of California, Berkeley, Events + Media, Carolina Graduate School Magazine, University of Houston News, and University of Hawai'i News.

READ MORE »

# AAUW Salary Negotiation Program in the New York Times

AAUW's Work Smart program and advice to women were featured in "How to Be an Ace Salary Negotiator (Even If You Hate Conflict)" in the *New York Times* last week.

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#### **Introducing AAUW's Governance Forum**

Have you checked out our new governance forum? Send your questions and comments about AAUW bylaws, policies, and voting to

<u>aauwgovernance@aauw.org</u> and we'll do our best to address them here.

**READ MORE »** 



#### Just FYI...

Here's a term in the social justice lexicon that you may start hearing: "intersectional feminism."

The ideas reproduced here are from a blog by Campus Initiatives Intern Theresa Hice Johnson, printed in the national AAUW Web site.

"The fear of losing the progress that women have made regarding reproductive rights, antidiscrimination laws, and fair pay has been weighing on me, but demonstrations like the 2017 Women's Marches give me hope. These rallies have also encouraged the recognition that the feminist movement must require greater diversity, including more non-white leaders, if it is to advance and succeed. AAUW encourages bridging generational, racial, and class divides and recognizes that without intersectionality, our work is futile. So what is intersectional feminism? Kimberlé Crenshaw didn't invent the concept, but she did coin the term to acknowledge multiple overlapping social identities and related systems of oppression. As women, we are oppressed by the patriarchal societal culture, but there is still a difference in how and to what extent we experience oppression based on our race, ethnicity, ability, appearance, culture, economic status, gender expression, sexual orientation, and more. So while we may want to work under the umbrella term "women," there is not one global women's experience. When we discuss the needs of women, we must include the perspectives of all women, particularly the most marginalized."

## News and notes

#### **Summer College Relations Fun!**

Jean Cox-Treverton and Carol Simmer represented AAUW-Bellingham at the Summer salmon barbeque given by the Western Washington University Foundation on August 14<sup>th</sup> at Bellewood Acres. Other AAUW-Bellingham members spotted in the crowd were Loriann Smiley, Arlene Pilcher, Margo Hammond, Elsie Heinrick and Ingeborg Paulus.

#### Another gallery event

A few weeks after Kay Davin's exhibit opening downtown, some AAUW members took advantage of Pat Banasky's invitation to the grand opening of her daughter and son-in-law's new Peter James Photo Gallery and Studio, in the new Orca Building in Fairhaven.

#### Paper craft workshops

Classes are still available this fall from Jean Cox-Treverton, who has scheduled two more workshops. The first is Friday, Sept. 29. Class members will make a star book or a journal.

The second class is set for Friday, Nov. 2, with a paper holiday garland to create.

Both classes run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a sack lunch. Part of the proceeds from the classes benefit Bellingham AAUW scholarship fund. Call Jean for more information.

Finished projects from a previous workshop.



#### Room fee reminder

Just a first-of-the-season reminder that Bellingham Branch requests each member to chip in \$5 at every meeting held at the YWCA, to help defray rental costs. Thank you!

## AAUW National by-laws election vote report

As reported on the national AAUW website, the eligible voter turnout was 19%, more than 3 times the 5 percent required by the by-laws. Proposal 3 regarding the Membership Requirement, the most highly debated amendment, did **not** pass. The vote was 6503 for and 7121 against. Bylaws amendments require a two-thirds vote to pass.

The average total percentage of members voting in all states combined was 19.82%. Washington State was better at 22.6% The highest percentage of members voting was Idaho at 34.29%

Submitted by Carol Simmer, By-Laws Chair Last Spring, President Judith Entwife gathered info from board members for short biographies. We'll try to publish a couple each month so you all can Get To Know Your Board.

#### Susan Moen, Co-Vice President for Membership

I have been a member of AAUW for over 43 wonderful years. I was elected charter president for the new branch in Polson, Montana all those years ago. Now I continue to enjoy my passion for Empowering Women and Girls. What a joy we have reminiscing about the

past and working for the future.

I have lived, and attended AAUW meetings in. three states; I have been on two state boards--Montana and Washington. I have been branch president four times in various branches and am now a member of the Bellingham board as co-chair of membership.

We all have our stories of connections. I want to thank all of you for continued good work and the wonderful friendships we've had over the vears. At AAUW we have friends with similar values, goals and desires with whom to work for women's equity. Here's to our continued success--advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.



#### Heléne Berg-Kolin, Treasurer

Heléne Berg-Kolin is beginning her second two-year term

as treasurer for the Bellingham Branch of AAUW.



Heléne is a retired academic advisor and career counselor who spent the majority of her career helping college students choose their majors at California State University, Northridge. She has a long interest in women's issues and completed a significant number of courses in women's studies. She earned a BA in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara and an MS in counseling/career counseling from CSU Northridge. She is a former director of the Women's Center at CSU Northridge and was active in the San Fernando chapter of NOW.

Helene has lived in Bellingham since 2010, bringing her commitment to equity for women to our Bellingham AAUW branch and our board.

### INTEREST GROUP NEWS

#### REEL MOVIE LOVERS

Next up for Reel Movie Lovers: A play! La Cage aux Folles at the Bellingham Theater Guild, a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee on September 9. This is the opening show for the BTG's 18-19 season. And as always, we can do food of some kind afterwards if some are interested. Invite your friends! Let host Roni know if you plan to join us (text to 510-435-4747, or email roni.lenore@gmail.com). If she gets a head count, soon enough, she can direct people to where we will be sitting.

You are encouraged to purchase your ticket in advance. If you have ideas, questions or suggestions, please contact Roni.

#### **ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB**

Adelante! meets (usually) monthly at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

The next meeting will be Sept. 27. The book (a fantasy) to be reviewed is The Amulet of Samarkand (Bartimaeus Trilogy, Book 1), by Ionathan Stroud.

Should you add it to your reading list?

Last month's Adelante! book: Dataclysm: Love, Sex, Race, and Identity--What Our Online Lives



Tell Us about Our Offline Selves. Some loved it, some found it too nerdy.

#### YA GOTTA HAVE ART!

Any member can propose a date and meeting place for Ya Gotta Have Art! to take advantage of local art shows, museums, special art projects and the incredible sculptures of our city and campus. Please contact Susan Moen if you are interested in joining other members to view the shows and possibly have lunch to complete the outing: susanmoen@comcast.net, or 206-399-4909

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