



High School Scholars Time!

10 a.m., Saturday May 12th at Old City Hall

Come celebrate the next generation of young women destined for big accomplishments!

This is the 17th year that Bellingham AAUW has honored female students, selected by their high schools for excellence in the STEM disciplines of science, technology and mathematics. Every high school in Whatcom County is invited to choose three students.

The program will be at the Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall building, 121 Prospect St. It has been ten years since this event has been held at this beautiful and historic venue. The chosen scholars and their families will join us at 10 a.m. for refreshments, hear a motivating speaker, and receive a gift and certificate of excellence.

Guest speaker Jan Davishahl is an educator and engineer. As a tenured faculty member of Bellingham Technical College, she teaches, develops curriculum, implements new programs and manages National Science Foundation grants. An enthusiastic speaker, she will capture the scholars’ imaginations with her story and motivate them to reach their goals through education.

Please come to this celebration and welcome the scholars and their families. The back door of the museum will open for us at 9 a.m. and the front door will open at 9:30 a.m. **Please bring 2-3 dozen finger-food appetizers** for the refreshment table. Thank you in advance for your attendance.

Jean Cox Treverton and Carol Simmer, Co-chairs

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Check out new Web site design

Along with design changes made by AAUW National, we have added our Centennial Logo to our front page.

<https://bellingham-wa.aauw.net/>

Local attorney tells cautionary tales



Guest speaker at Bellingham AAUW's April business meeting was, appropriately, an attorney. **Emily Rose Mowrey**, owner of local law firm Limitless Law PLLC, left us with a powerful message about how important it is to have all your ducks in a row when it comes to your financial matters, especially wills and trusts.

Emily made these points, along with many others:

- It is important to revisit any trusts you may set up, if you move to a different state, because state laws vary greatly.
- How probate is handled varies from one state to another, with some much easier to work with.
- It is important to be sure beneficiaries on your investments are kept up to date. (For example, your evil ex could inherit a lot if you don't make needed changes.)

Emily is a Whatcom County native. A graduate of Whitman College, she studied law through the Washington State Bar Association Law Clerk Program, a four-year legal clerkship and law school curriculum administered by the Washington State Bar Association. She was chosen the Whatcom/Bellingham Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year in 2015. She is also a member of Bellingham Roller Betties, and an adjunct professor at Whatcom Community College.

Everyone Welcome! Centennial Committee Meets May 20th

Cathie and Carol will host an important Centennial Committee meeting at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club (BGCC) on Sunday, May 20th, at 2 p.m. (upstairs in the dining room).

This is also the venue for the final Centennial event on Sat. October 13th.

Many hands make light work so all members are welcome to join the core committee for the preparations for this grand and important celebration of our last 100 years. Tickets and programs need to be designed, special guests (past members and supporters of AAUW-B over the years) need to be located and invited, and discussion about table decorations and other "special" treats will be done. Join us for planning this fun and historic event!

Cathie Oberg and Carol Simmer, Co-chairs

Annual Branch business meeting

Election of officers and a review of projects and budget were carried out at the annual business meeting. This is usually held in March, but was delayed one month because of the Centennial fashion show

There is very little change in the Executive Board after elections.

Heléne Berg-Kolin remains as our treasurer; Susan Moen continues another year as membership chair, joined by Robin Kagan for a two-year term. Robin was formerly a program co-chair. That position is now held solely by Catherine Chambers. (Also stepping down as a program co-chair is Jo Pullen.)

New officers will be installed in June.

Interesting data from our budget:

We raise money through individual and corporate gifts—and a whopping \$11 per year from your dues. (The remainder goes to our state and national organizations.)

To date this centennial year, we've raised more than \$17,000.

- If you or a business you know would like to help with fund-raising please see Treasurer Helene Berg-Kolin.
- Every donation of \$250 or more is acknowledged on our Path Forward listing.
- That money is given to support education and equity for local girls and women.

We've given about \$13,000 so far this year:

- \$7000 to send middle school girls to Tech Trek camp
- \$ 500 to support WCC's Girls Go Tech day camp
- \$1500 to recognize our local High School Scholars
- \$4000 in scholarships to our local colleges

We also use our resources on events that further support girls and women:

- Film festivals (Human Rights and Cascadia)
- January's March for Women's Rights
- February's Student Walk-Out
- March for Our Lives.



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.

College Relations/Scholarship Committee Hard at Work

Since September 2017, the C.R. & S. committee has grown! We now have a specific AAUW-Bellingham member as liaison between our Branch and the local colleges and university.

The new liaisons recruited are: Bellingham Technical College, Roni Lenore; Whatcom Community College, Susan Gelhar; and Northwest Indian College, Catherine Chambers. We have had liaisons between Western Washington University and our Branch for many years. This year the liaisons are Rebecca Bunn and Gerry Prody. Each liaison from AAUW has met with BTC, WCC, and NWIC representatives to discuss scholarships and other projects. The possibilities of BTC, WCC, and NWIC becoming AAUW Partners were also discussed. All were interested in being partners but to date, only BTC has formally joined AAUW as a College/University Partner. We hope by October this year to have all three as new partners. Great job new liaisons, Roni, Susan, and Catherine!

Submitted by Carol Simmer, College Relations/Scholarship chair

Save the date (and time)

The June general meeting will be a **potluck** on our regular meeting date, **June 9**, but held **in the evening** - so mark your calendar!

It will be held at the **Lake Padden Estates Clubhouse** (in Susan Moen's neighborhood).



The State AAUW Convention in Spokane was really good. Loved being at the Davenport Hotel, the old original building. Gorgeous inside. Catherine Chambers and I felt quite queenly in our spacious room. As it is almost a 7 hour trip, we went over on Thursday and stayed at the Hampton Inn. I went to the executive board meeting at 1 pm on Friday.

The speakers were all excellent.

We invited the state branches to our 100th Anniversary Luncheon. and many women are interested in attending.

—Susan Moen

Membership Report

We have had an incredible increase in our membership this winter from 63 to 78. Last year the Membership Committee challenged all of you to increase our membership to 100 for our 100th anniversary year. ***We are well on our way to 100 members for our 100th year. THIS GOAL is doable. Thank you to all who have invited new members to a meeting or event.***

Our increase is really amazing. You have been inviting friends and they are eager to join our branch which is jam-packed with exciting projects, marches and our stirring MISSION. We have had 15 women join us since January and we are so pleased. Many of our new members immediately volunteered for our wonderful Vintage Fashion Show Fund Raiser. Please volunteer again for the High School Scholars Program.

This May meeting featuring the High School scholars is a wonderful meeting to invite a friend or relative to. It clearly highlights our mission of Empowering Women and Girls. It is a showcase for Girls in STEM classes in high school. Please take the time to invite a new friend or a past member to check out our great energy.

Also remember, if a new person or lapsed member (someone who rejoins after two or more years) joins at a meeting or event sponsored by AAUW, they need only pay 1/2 price for the National Dues. This totals a \$50.00 cost of joining our National AAUW, Washington State AAUW and our Branch. This is from the National Quick Guide to Shape the Future Membership Campaign. We have many pamphlets and brochures covering all the projects that we are involved in. Tuck one in your purse to give to a possible member. The most important part of the invitation is your ASK.

Susan Moen, Membership Chair

It's that time of year...

Please bring your check book for paying the yearly dues at our May meeting. This is a good opportunity to pay your annual dues, which must reach the National office by July 1. We really appreciate you making things easier for the Branch Treasurer and Membership VP by paying your dues in a timely way.

The National Dues have increased for the first time in about 10 years: It was \$49 and is now \$59. The total dues amount is \$80.00. If you are a life member, the payment is \$21 (\$11 for our branch + \$10 for the AAUW-WA State.). Our National dues cover about 13% of the cost of running the National Office. They augment this with corporate and individual donations. We also finance our local organization with personal and corporate donations

If you are a new member and have paid your dues from January 2018 to now, please note that you do not have to pay again until next year - July 1, 2019.

If you will not be able to make this exciting meeting featuring our High School Scholars, please send your check to: AAUW Bellingham, PO Box 29862, Bellingham WA 98228-1862.

We have an application on the back page to let you fill in and mail to us if you cannot attend our May Meeting.

If paying this amount is a hardship, please call Susan Moen, Membership VP, to ask for a scholarship for your dues. We have a small fund set aside in our budget. It is important for all our members to be able to participate and we appreciate all new or longstanding members in our branch and encourage you to keep active with us.

Susan Moen cell 206-399-4909.

Celebrating our members' milestones...

Nora Abelite is one of the winners of this year's Sue Boynton Poetry Contest!

Nora says, "I am thrilled. I will be reading my poem on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bellingham Ferry Terminal along with the other winners. My poem will be installed on a metal plaque on the poetry walk at the Bellingham Public Library. In addition, my poem, along with those of the other winners will be published in a chap book."

Robin Lynn Kagan, Licensed Financial Advisor, has expanded her abilities to help clients by completing the Series 7 and Series 66 courses, after 6 months and 500 hours of study!

"This is a milestone in my career," she says, "helping clients align their savings with their current objectives. I act as a conduit providing access to professional money managers, the same 'brainiacs' who handle large pension funds. Although during most of my 20 years in insurance my clients have had other financial advisors, I am finding that a fresh look has been very well received."

Editor's note: Let me know if you or another Branch member has a new achievement. —Gwen Parker

Happy
Birthday!

Nina
Kuhlman
May 7th

Heidi
Hawkins
May 7th



Bellingham Branch AAUW

P.O. Box 29862 Bellingham, WA
98228

www.aauw-wa.org

Executive Board 2017-2018

President

Judith Entwife

360-734-0444

jentwife@frontier.com

Treasurer

Helene Berg-Kolin

360-392-8856

hbergkolin@gmail.com

Program Co-Chairpersons

Catherine Chambers

360-738-4713

cathecham@gmail.com

Robin Kagan

360-676-5205

rlkfortc@comcast.net

Jo Pullen

jopullenbham@gmail.com

Membership Chairperson

Susan Moen

360-778-2510

susanmoen@comcast.net

Secretary

Jean Cox-Treverton

360-392-0043

jeancoxtreverton@ymail.com

Newsletter/Web Editor

Gwen Parker 360-933-4314

parker.gwen@comcast.net

Open them up ...and see all the goodies!

Paper craft artist Jean Cox-Treverton said she was amazed at the variety of creative ideas generated by her “pupils” — Branch members who had signed up for the first paper gift box class. The gift box is an exploding box within a box (see photos), great for gifting small treasures. The morning was dedicated to assembling the boxes. After a brown bag lunch, the class members continued to decorate and complete the boxes. \$15 from each of the \$35 registrations goes to Bellingham Branch projects.

More sessions will be scheduled if people let Jean know they are interested.



National Bylaws changes - *Please Vote!*

Voting closes on **Saturday, June 9, at 9 p.m. ET**. Results will be announced on **Sunday, June 10**, on AAUW's website. Watch your email for a notice.

Voting is now open on three National AAUW Bylaws proposals. Probably the most controversial is Proposal 3: *Shall the AAUW Bylaws be amended to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW?*

AAUW's Outlook magazine says this: "Both the Governance Committee and Board of Directors recognize the struggle and pride of many members in obtaining their degrees and understand some members fervently support maintaining the degree requirement as an honor to those efforts...However... AAUW recognizes the power of welcoming anyone who supports our mission...**AAUW cannot promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements.**"

One of our members discusses this issue — See Page 8

Response to Bylaw Amendment on Degree Requirement

Recognizing the importance of expanding the national membership, I would rather have the membership requirements expanded rather than see the degree requirement eliminated altogether. I have many friends and acquaintances who are not eligible under the current membership requirements. If AAUW considered opening membership to those who had technical degrees or certificates and/or professional affiliations it would be possible to maintain the degree requirement as it now exists but allow membership to like-minded others. There are many persons inside and outside AAUW who are actively working to pursue the education and equity goals of the organization. Expanding membership outside the degree requirement could increase the power of our outreach and action to achieve those goals.

My objection to the amendment as it is now written: For all of us who have worked to earn that (those) degrees, our achievements would become meaningless in terms of membership in the national organization. After all, our membership has been based on those achievements, and to our dedication to making similar achievements available to wider and wider populations. I believe we can open membership to potential members without, in the first place, eliminating the historical and defining reason for our continued membership.



Girls Go Tech participant uses a bicycle-powered generator to experience the different amounts of energy required to power LED vs. incandescent lightbulbs.

Girls Go Tech

In addition to helping local women to get a university education, and middle school girls to Attend AAUW's Tech Trek program, our local branch enables local teen girls to explore subjects in the STEM field. In April each year, AAUW Bellingham assists WCC to present Girls Go Tech, a day-long series of interactive activities aimed at local middle-school and home-schooled girls. Typical workshops may involve cyber-sleuthing, nursing, designing documents in the graphic design lab, robotics, and forensic investigation, as well as a campus wide scavenger hunt, inspiring local speakers, and a tasty lunch.

The girls must be accompanied by a parent, who is not left out of the fun - they can do the hands-on activities alongside their daughters, and also attend an informational session on career pathways and planning for educational options.

If you haven't volunteered yet at the workshop, consider going next year, and spending a delightful day playing alongside young women as they discover the world of STEM. It is also a great opportunity to hear a local scientist speak of her experiences, to meet parents and promote AAUW's interest in educating local girls.

Learning from students

Board members met with WWU Public Relations students to discuss their helping us update our social media presence. Emma Agte, Mia Steben and Chelsea Smiley, all juniors, will come up with a plan and teach us how to keep content up and running. The main purpose is to grow our membership and expand beyond Bellingham and into the county. We also hope to draw in campus members.

Throughout the process during the month of May, the students will meet with us and send drafts for comment. By the end of May, we can expect an impressive package of deliverables from a Facebook page to website updates. All will underpinned by training for AAUW members and a set-up calendar to help us maintain our new platforms. The students will also provide other products, including a media backgrounder, FAQ sheet, radio and video PSAs, a sample Instagram post and an eye-catching poster.

If you're interested in any of this—with or without experience in the field—please join us. Just let Judith Entwife know via email, and she'll add you to the contact list.

We're excited to be aligned with these young experts! And we look forward to continuing to work with them as student members of AAUW.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

REEL MOVIE LOVERS

Join host Roni Lenore for periodic movie outings (usually Sunday matinees, but also other times as dictated by a host of factors). The next event is RBG (Ruth Bader Ginsburg) on May 13 at the Pickford theater (time still TBD).

Our guidelines:

Notice of upcoming Reel Movie Lover's movies will be routed through Gwen. Join if you can! See an upcoming email to all members with guidelines for this loose-knit group, or view it on our Web site.

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 May 24th. The book to be reviewed is *Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim*, by Sabeeha Rehman. Review leader is Kay Davin.

Should you add it to your reading list?

Last month's Adelante! book: *The Sixth Extinction* should be on everyone's must read list.

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

American Association of University Women

Bellingham Branch 2018 Dues Submittal & New Member Application

Please complete this form and submit with your dues. Send by mail to AAUW, Bellingham Treasurer, PO Box 29862, Bellingham WA 98228. Or deliver at your first meeting for a one-time discount.

Membership Data Sheet

Please fill in items as you wish them to appear in the annual directory.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Zip:** _____

Landline: _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail: _____

Birth month and day: _____

College/University Attended, Degree(s), Major, Grad Year

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Please submit with check made out to AAUW Bellingham.

Dues (\$80/year or \$50 if joining at a General Meeting) _____

Local Scholarship Donation _____

Total \$ _____