



**Merry Christmas**  
**Happy New Year**  
**Happy**  
**Kwanzaa**  
**Feliz Navidad**



## ***Get in the holiday spirit with AAUW!***

**December 8th at Old City Hall Museum Building  
121 Prospect St.  
10 a.m. to noon in the Rotunda Room**

- ***Bring a friend***
- ***Enjoy a concert by the Sehome High School Choir.***
- ***Admire the many and varied Christmas trees on display***
- ***Share some coffee and holiday treats***

**Instead of the traditional cookie exchange, we'll enjoy some holiday breads *donated by Great Harvest (Thank You!)* Everyone is invited to bring other holiday treats, be it a breakfast casserole, fruit, cookies or other favorite. If you need an idea, our program planners suggest: Members A-M - butter, cream cheese, or juice, N-Z- fruit, other healthy offerings. Coffee will be provided.**

There is some parking in the lot at the Old City Hall. Those who have trouble negotiating a lot of stairs are advised to enter from the back side of the building (facing the Bay). There are a few stairs to go down, but you will have close access to the elevator. The front entry also will be open. We will meet in the Rotunda Room and adjoining second floor board room.

*November meeting***New Roles for Women in the military**

At the January general meeting, two members of the U.S. military gave us an overview of what it is like to be a woman in the armed forces, and how it is another route to an education and a career.

**First, U.S. Army SSgt. Christina Vargas**, a recruiter, talked about the history of women in the military, starting with an estimated 400 women who fought in the Civil War, disguised as men.

One Civil War soldier was Mary Walker, a doctor in private practice when the Civil War broke out in 1861. She wanted to join the Army as a surgeon but wasn't allowed because she was a woman. Because of her credentials, she didn't want to be a nurse, either, so so she chose to volunteer for the Union Army.

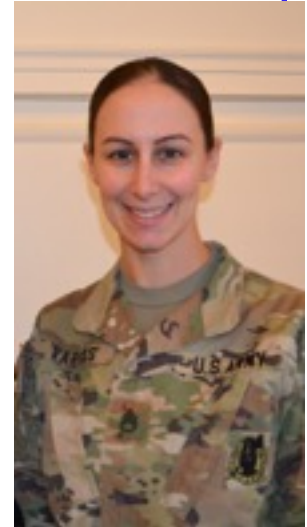
Out of the nearly 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients, she became the first and only woman to receive one — and her medal was rescinded just before she died, because she was never a commissioned officer.

Sixty years after that, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter restored the honor.

From early years of acceptance as Army nurses, women slowly gained more and more opportunities to serve. In 1980, the first woman graduated from West Point., and in 2015 full integration was achieved.

**The second speaker was U.S. Army Reserve Capt. Chloe Chung.** She emphasized the ability of Reservists to have another career outside the military. She holds an information Science degree from the University of Washington, and is a librarian. She also mentioned the great amount of travel she has done as a Reservist.

Other points made were the good benefits military personnel receive, including health care and childcare, and the transferability of military experience to civilian jobs.



***SSgt. Christina Vargas***



***Capt. Chloe Chung***

## A warm welcome to new members!

by *Gwen Parker*  
*Newsletter editor*

I can scarcely keep up with the list of new members — it is delightful that so many women are bringing fresh outlooks and experience to our group. I hope you will all find companionship, intellectual stimulation, a niche to make your own in the projects we undertake, and not least, some FUN!

At the right, you will see photos of two new members, and I'll hope to grab photos of others soon. (Sorry, Camille — the one I took of you last month I snapped when your eyes were closed — won't show that one to the public!)

Here is a list of recent newcomers:

- Camille Brighten
- Moriah Cretu
- Criss Forslund
- Rahwa Hailer-mariam
- Lisa Hammond (Yes, Margo's sister)
- Elaine Hornal
- Sheila Jenskisian
- Kelli Linville (Yes, Mayor of Bellingham)
- Carol McKinney
- Karen Peck
- Layla Pollack
- Kathleen Sabel
- Roberta Schamber

Joining earlier this year were Uzma Ahmad, Carol Dukes, Heidi Hawkins and Laurie Heck. Have I missed anyone? Probably: refer back to my first sentence....



**Lisa Hammond**



**Criss Forslund**

### December birthday

Gwen Parker 12/19



### A question and request

Jean Cox-Treverton, our indefatigable High School Scholars committee co-chair, would like the person who took photos at last year's ceremony, to please raise their hand ....er, send her an email.

## Protect Title IX

*From the National AAUW Web site:*

The Department of Education has just proposed sweeping changes to Title IX's regulations, which would have significant implications for students' civil rights and for federal enforcement of the law. Title IX protects all students from discrimination — students of all genders, from kindergarten through college. But these expansive changes put those protections at risk.

It's the Department of Education's job to keep all students safe and to keep schools free from discrimination, including sexual harassment and violence. These proposed changes would weaken Title IX's protections by narrowing the definition of sexual harassment to allow schools to exclude much of the abuse students experience, limiting when schools will respond, and putting in place processes that make it harder for students to come forward when they experience sexual harassment or assault. Simply put, these changes will make schools less safe for students.

Over the next two months, we have an opportunity to weigh in with the Department of Education with public comments on the proposed changes. It's crucial that advocates speak up — loudly — and fight back against any attacks on Title IX that attempt to diminish students' protections.

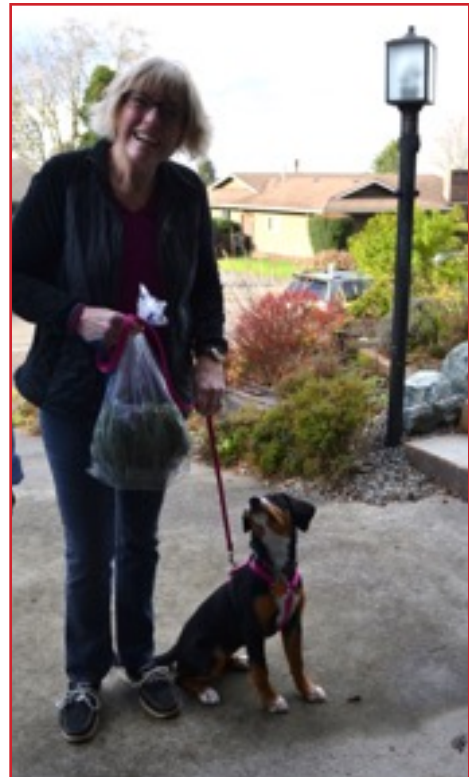
To add your voice, go to the AAUW national Web site [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org), and click on the Take Action header.



### *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.




***Elaine con Brio:*** Elaine Wilson picked up her Christmas greenery on distribution day, accompanied by her Swiss herding dog puppy, Brio. Distribution went pretty smoothly. Thanks to all who participated!

## A note about year-end giving

If you are planning year-end donations, please consider supporting AAUW.

Currently, Bellingham Branch does not have 501(c)3 status, so donations to the branch are not tax deductible. However, donations to the state or national AAUW organizations may be deducted. Donations going to Washington State AAUW may be earmarked for Tech Trek.

Also, donations can still be made to the Bellingham Branch endowment fund at Western Washington University. Interest from the endowment goes to fund scholarships nearly every year, depending on stock market conditions. 



**Loriann J. Smiley**  
**April 30, 1947 - November 14, 2018**

Our friend and longtime AAUW member Loriann J. Smiley passed away Wednesday, November 14, 2018 in Bellingham. She was born in Bellingham on April 30, 1947 to Arlene Signe (Evertz) and John Christopher Kowsky, Sr. Loriann is survived by her mother, Arlene Pilcher, also a Bellingham AAUW member; three children, Jonathon Smiley, Christopher (Jessie) Smiley and Holly O'Neill; sister Kathy Tift; brothers, John Christopher Kowsky, Jr., Scott MacDonald, Rick Kowsky, Randy Lampman, and Roderick Kowsky; and numerous nieces and nephews. Lori was a graduate of Western Washington University and was a special education teacher. She extended her passion to see children educated by being a staunch supporter of AAUW. She donated generously and in many ways to Bellingham Branch fundraisers, and greatly enjoyed our wine-tastings, art gallery outings and High School Scholars program.



**Our sympathy**

Condolences to Mary Jane Vetter, whose husband Richard passed away November 20, 2018. A memorial mass and celebration of life will be held in Bellingham at a later date.

**2019 is getting close!**

Our first general meeting of the New Year will be Jan. 12 at the YWCA.



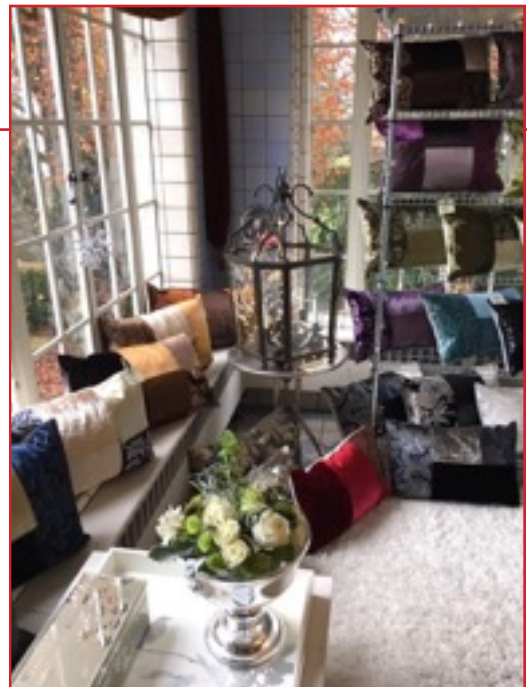


## Out and about

### Christmas at Hycroft House

One of the bonuses of living in Whatcom County is being able to attend the holiday bazaar held every year at Mycroft House, and Edwardian mansion in Vancouver, owned and maintained by the University Women’s Club of Vancouver. Visiting in November were, from left, Cathie Oberg, Liz Wright and Susan Gelhar, visit Hycroft House in Vancouver, BC. Carol Simmer, Catherine Chambers, and Jean Cox Treverton visited on a later date.

The holiday decorations and beautifully restored rooms are magnificent. In 1974 the UWCV was given an award of merit from the Vancouver Historical Society for the historical and architectural preservation work they had done at Hycroft. In 1994, the Club was given a Heritage Award from the City of Vancouver for its continued maintenance of the house.



## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### REEL MOVIE LOVERS

The Cascadia International Women's Film Festival is offering a 4-part series of features and short films from slapstick comedies to melodramas and thrillers - all from female directors of the silent film age.

Attend to help support the CIWFF!

The first one was December 2. The next is Sunday, January 6, 2 PM, Mt. Baker Theater, 104 N. Commercial St., Bellingham

Friday, February 1, 7 PM, Jansen Art Center, 321 Front Street, Lynden

Friday, March 8, 7 PM, Firehouse Cafe, 1314 Harris Ave., Bellingham

Contact Roni (510-435-4747)

### 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 Jan. 24. Book is *Educated*, by Tara Westover.

### *Should you add it to your reading list?*

Last month's Adelante! book was *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*, by Sherman Alexie. This gets a mixed review for strong language and being too long, but having some spots of beautiful writing and profundity.

### 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 shows and possibly have lunch to complete the outing: [susanmoen@comcast.net](mailto:susanmoen@comcast.net), or 206-399-4909

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