

1. **International Women's Day celebration**
2. **Branch elections**
3. **National Women's History Month**
4. **Seattle panel discussion**

Wow! It looks as if March is coming in like a *lioness*, with our AAUW Branch elections, a film festival celebration of International Women's Day, a YWCA event to celebrate National Women's History Month, and a Seattle AAUW panel discussion given by immigrant women about immigration and integration.

Let's take these events one at a time, starting with the first event, **Friday, March 8:**

1. Bellingham AAUW is co-sponsoring the International Women's Day celebration with Cascadia Women's Film Festival at the Firehouse Cafe & Performing Arts Center. They will be showing the film "Be Natural," a documentary about Alice Guy-Blaché, one of the silent film directors whose work is included in the film series that has been showing since January. There will be a display in the cafe, snacks and a discussion with the director after the film. Please contact Catherine Chambers, AAUW, to help with providing snacks, cathecham@gmail.com or 360.920.5385. The movie will start at 7 p.m. at the Firehouse Cafe, 1314 Harris Ave. in Fairhaven.



2. Bellingham Branch Elections will be held at the March 9 general meeting, 10 a.m. at the YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St.

Those selected by the nominating committee are:
Co-presidents, Judith Entwife and India Nishi
Membership Vice-presidents Robin Kagan and Judi Edwards
Program Vice presidents Margo Hammond and Lisa Hammond

More nominations may be made from the floor, provided that the nominee is amenable to it.

Our speaker for the day will be Cheryl Crooks, Executive Director of the Cascadia International Women's Film Festival. She will talk about the Women's Film organization and the upcoming April festival, with trailers of some of the movies.

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Cheryl Crooks to be March 9 speaker

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Ms. Crooks has worked as a freelance journalist, with articles in many national publications, such as TIME magazine. She is a professional photographer and has held board positions with numerous local arts groups, such as the College of Fine and Performing Arts at Western Washington University and the Bellingham Festival of the Arts.

According to their Web site, Cascadia International Women's Film Festival was founded in 2015 to create an annual curated festival celebrating exceptional films directed by women from around the world.

The four-day event held in Bellingham each April includes film screenings, social events, workshops, industry panels, educational events, and more. Cascadia also hosts other festival activities throughout the year, such as educational forums, workshops and special film showings. It is a non-profit organization.

Branch member alert: Once again, members with names A thru L, it is your turn to bring snacks! Coffee provided, and guests welcome! 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸

3. In recognition of National Women's History Month, the YWCA will present Heartsongs, an "Her"storical Perspective. Participants will learn about women's history through music and hands-on activities.

Local singer/songwriter Linda Allen will lend her voice and original songs as a starting point for the activities. Women's contributions, cultural similarities, challenges and need for continuing to work together are the main topics. The event will be held in the YWCA's ballroom, 1026 North Forest St. on Saturday, March 16th from 10AM-2PM. Bring your own brown bag lunch and beverage (alcohol-free). Pre-registration is required to assure adequate seating 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸



4. Seattle Branch AAUW presents

"Immigration and Integration," shared by a panel of immigrant and refugee women Saturday, March 16th, 2019 - 9:30am, Executive Inn by the Space Needle 200 Taylor Ave North Seattle, WA 98109

Open to the general public. No need to be a member to attend. NO CHARGE EVENT, however, Reservations are required by Friday, March 8th. To reserve your place, send an email to RSVP@aauw-seattle.org

Though we are bombarded daily by media articles about *immigration*, little is said about *integration*. Our March program provides an opportunity to learn what it means to immigrate to this country, or arrive as a refugee, and about the journey of integration once one is here. Four women will share their personal stories of leaving their native countries and creating a new life in a very different culture.

The Panel is moderated by Barbara Spraker, AAUW member, and features: Risho Sapano, Founder and Executive Director of Mother Africa; Zozan Shamdeen and Sheelan Shamdeen, Founders and Co-owners of Soozyeen Catering, and Samsu Issak, Executive Director of Living Well Kent.

Here is the official notice from Washington State AAUW regarding the meeting to be held in Bellingham in April. See more information on Page 4.



AAUW Washington Annual Meeting is April 12-13, 2019, at Holiday Inn Bellingham International Airport. Call the hotel at 877-386-8490 for a room reservation for Friday.

Annual meeting information is available on our [website](#). The agenda provided on the website will always be the latest agenda.

You can register for the conference at [AAUW Washington Annual Meeting 2019](#).

The meeting will start with dinner on Friday and continue through a day of speakers and workshops on Saturday. Kim Churches will be our dinner speaker. Kim is CEO of AAUW and will be leaving to attend Oregon's convention on Saturday. This is your chance to hear how AAUW will continue to be relevant in the 21st Century. Another confirmed speaker for Saturday is Amy Klosterman, Title IX attorney. Amy will speak about her experience in the US Office of Civil Rights. Check our website, aaaw-wa.aauw.org, for updated program information.

Fees for our event are \$120.00 early registration and \$145.00 after March 15. Friday only and Saturday only registrations are available. Student Registration is also included. You can contact Marziah Kiehn, finance@aauw-wa.org, to order guest meals and arrange payment. Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch are included. You have a choice of three entrees for Friday dinner:

All options include spinach salad and seasonal vegetables

- 1 coffee crusted sirloin with mango chutney, Lyonnaise potato
- 2 hazelnut-Dijon crusted chicken with gorgonzola cream sauce, herbed basmati rice
- 3 vegetarian - Portobello mushroom with roasted bell pepper, roasted baby baked potato with sour cream

We will be electing a Secretary and two board members at the meeting. If you are interested in joining the state board, contact Judy Prince, president@aauw-wa.org.

Problems with registration? Contact Marziah or Judy.

Registration closes April 4 so that we can give accurate meal information to the hotel catering office.

Judy Prince

president@aauw-wa

More about the State Meeting

The AAUW State Meeting replaces our ordinary monthly meeting. However, as you read on the previous page, there is considerable cost associated with it. Here is a breakdown of registration fees:

2 Day Registration	\$145.00 after Saturday, March 16, 2019	\$120.00
Friday Only Registration	\$65.00 after Saturday, March 16, 2019	\$ 55.00
Saturday Only Registration	\$90.00 after Saturday, March 16, 2019	\$ 75.00
Student Registration	\$100.00 after Saturday, March 16, 2019	\$ 75.00

For Bellingham Branch members who wish to attend, but find the registration fees prohibitive, the Bellingham Executive Board has set aside a limited fund to reduce the cost. Please contact Treasurer Heléne Berg-Kolin.

College Pantry food donations go to BTC this month

A big Thank You to everyone who brought donations to the February meeting for the WWU food bank. Just getting to the meeting during the coldest February on record was a feat, and food support is doubly important at such a time.

March's food donations will go to Bellingham Technical College. Melissa Nelson, Interim Student Life Director, tells us: "We have a current process where we provide bagged breakfast/lunch options to students in need of a meal to get them through the day at school. We also have pre-bagged one to two meal bags (for up to 4 people) that we provide access to once a week during set hours.

"We also have a "Food of the Month" list that we publicize to campus. This month, it is soup, stews or beans in Heat-and-eat containers." (See the photos at right, for ideas.)

Monetary donations go to each school's foundation to buy more pantry items. 🌸🌸🌸



February meeting may have caused some sleepless nights

Comments such as “scary” and “I’m going to lose sleep over this” were the response to our February speaker’s presentation on safe Internet practices. Another member commented that cyber security is a complex topic, but that she appreciated the information.

Our speaker was Josephine Hollandbeck, President of the Whatcom Community College Women in Cyber Security (WiCys) Club, and an advanced student in the WCC Cyber Security Program.

So, everybody — go strengthen your passwords!



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.



AAUW members collaborate with Western students on class project

Bellingham Branch member India Nishi volunteered to work with students to ascertain ways that AAUW can forge closer ties with the student population. They developed original goals:

- to determine the level of interest of WWU students in forming an AAUW student association
- to understand how to increase AAUW presence and awareness on campus
- to help modernize social media and electronic communications to better reach students



A team of four students is working with India to develop surveys and focus groups to answer some of these questions. India and two of the students attended the last board meeting, where they discussed ideas such as bringing AAUW training sessions like Smart Start and Work Smart to campus, as well as "brownbag" speaker sessions. The students also asked the board to consider potential mentorships of WWU students in need of advice and guidance.

To help our branch better utilize social media tools, the students have offered to produce a handbook of instructions and guidelines. They are also working on a plan to help modernize our website, making it easier to update and maintain.

The board voted to authorize a standing committee to continue this work. Those who are interested in participating should contact India Nishi.