



Susan Moen photo

**Kimberly Churches, AAUW CEO**

**AAUW CEO leads list of dynamic speakers at State Meeting in Bellingham**

AAUW members from around Washington gathered April 12 and 13 at the Bellingham Airport Holiday Inn for this year’s State Meeting. Keynote speaker at the opening banquet was Kimberly Churches, who was named AAUW’s Chief Executive Officer in 2017. She gave attendees a candid look at how she is bringing the national group’s budget under tighter control.

She also spoke about making the most of the current emphasis on women’s rights to advance pay equity, education and leadership opportunities for women.

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**Big crowd expected for May 11 High School Scholars Event**

**10 a.m. to Noon — Whatcom County Museum  
Old City Hall Rotunda - 121 Prospect St., Bellingham**

This is the 18th year that Bellingham AAUW has honored female students selected by their high schools for excellence. In past years, recognition was in the STEM disciplines of science, technology and math. This year, we have added arts and humanities to the list (making STEAM the new acronym). Every high school in Whatcom County is invited to choose four students.

There will be 41 young women listed in the program for this year’s High School Scholars Recognition Event. This means we will have a large crowd and will need a lot of help to make the day shine. **Thanks to all the members who have volunteered. And...don’t forget...this is the one day of the year when we ask all members to bring finger foods** (two or three dozen “bites”). Our honorees bring their families and friends, so it is a large crowd eating our treats. Please use disposable platters when possible, but if personal dishes are used, please label them with your name.

**Volunteers and those bringing food will need to be there by at least 9:30.** There is some parking behind the museum. **Easiest access for those with mobility issues is the back entrance, and an elevator to the second level.**

**Our keynote speaker this year will be Jill MacIntyre Witt.** She recently completed her Masters in Environmental Studies at WWU and is currently an instructor there in the Environmental Studies and PE departments. She is also the Peace Corps Campus Representative. Her research emphasis and passion is devoted to climate change.



## State meeting

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Kim challenged every member to take the online Work Smart class, and to forward the link to five more women.

Prior to joining AAUW, Kim served as managing director of the Brookings Institution, an internationally recognized public policy think tank.

The audience consensus was that speakers for both days were top-notch.

**Immigration attorneys Holly Pai of Bellingham and Leta Sanchez of Mount Vernon** gave graphic and heart-wrenching descriptions of the difficulties immigrants encounter in trying to resettle in the United States. Not only is the cost of a Green Card (which grants permanent resident status) over \$1000, there are a multitude of problems brought about by slow government processing. And, as we know, families from South America have been torn apart when they reach our southern border.



**Great photo op** — Gathering for a photo at the AAUW State Meeting were, from left, Robin Kagan, Bellingham co-membership chair; Catherine Chambers, Bellingham liaison for State Meeting planning; Kim Churches, AAUW CEO, Barbara Sando, past state and Seattle Branch president, and Susan Moen, Bellingham past president and current co-membership chair.

**Jackie Sandemeyer, founder of TIX Education Specialists**, spoke about his company's work to provide Title IX training and guidance to K-12 school districts and colleges to establish best practices and stay abreast of changing state and federal mandates. One emphasis is to be sure Title IX programs are student centered.

The final speaker was **Whatcom County's own Sharon Shewmake, recently elected State Representative from the 42nd Legislative District**. She holds a PhD in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics, and is an associate professor at WWU, where she teaches economics and energy policy. One of the rare Democrats to have represented the 42nd District, she serves on several committees important to the Whatcom County agricultural sector.



***More fun at the State Meeting***

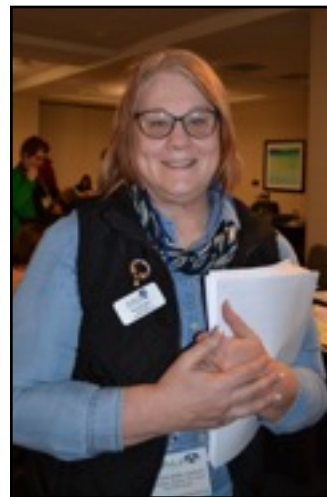
**Top left:** Esther Golde makes her point at the Friday night banquet. Seated with her are George and Judi Edwards, and at back left, Helene Berg-Kolin talks with Kyle McEligot, state communications director.

**Top right:** Bellingham Branch President Judith Entwife poses in her Suffragist costume, which she wore for her welcoming speech Saturday morning.

**Middle left:** Robin Kagan receives her Legacy Circle pin from Mary Alice Peterson of the Olympia Branch.

**Lower left:** Pam Sankey and Elaine Wilson at the Friday banquet.

**Lower right:** State Finance Officer Marziah Kiehn, a member of Olympia and Bellingham branches, was a busy organizer of the State Meeting.





### College Student Pantry Fund gets a boost at State Meeting

Because the April branch meeting was superseded by the State Meeting here in Bellingham, our College Student Pantry basket to collect food was replaced with a “tip jar” on our display table at the meeting venue. Kind members from throughout the state donated \$66 to help Whatcom Community College students.

We will use the tip jar again in May, since our meeting will be at the Old City Hall Museum, and we want to minimize the chaos level. Donations collected in the College Pantry Fund jar will go to WWU this month.



### Gene Jenkis

Bellingham Branch members extend their condolences to the family of Gene Jenkis, especially his wife Kathy Jenkis and his daughter Sheila Jenkisian, who are both branch members. Gene passed away after living for some time with a mechanical heart system.

### Members assist at Girls Go Tech

Carol Simmer and Susan Gelhar helped at the registration table for the Girls Go Tech event held April 13th at Whatcom Community College. Carol also gave a short welcome address, and told the assembled students and parents about AAUW.

Bellingham Branch has given a \$500 donation each year to help sponsor this day of STEM immersion for middle school girls. The girls get a chance to experience a college environment and this year got to:

- Experiment with information security vulnerabilities and safeguards
- Apply knowledge learned about circuits to wire a scaled down model of a room
- Use a bicycle as a power generator, to experience how much energy is required for incandescent versus LED light bulbs
- Design a pin, key chain, or other nifty object and make it using a laser cutter



Heidi Hawkins~May 7th

Nina Kuhlman~May 7th

### 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.



## Bellingham AAUW helps bring film director to town for Cascadia Film Festival event



*Janek/Bastard* was one of the short films shown during the Cascadia International Women's Film Festival in April. The Bellingham AAUW board was proud to be able to help bring the film's writer and director, Muriel Naim, to Bellingham to talk about the film.

Ms. Naim is an Israeli award-winning director / writer, emerging from Tel-Aviv's Theater scene. She was mentored under Israeli-Lithuanian Theater director Arthur Kogan and Iranian Oscar-winning filmmaker Asghar Farhadi. She recently graduated from the American Film Institute's Film Directing Program, where she received the Irwin & Sheila Allen Scholarship for excellence.

## Bellingham Branch helps send college students to NCCWSL

For the first time in about seven years, Bellingham Branch is once again supporting WWU students going to NCCWSL (National Conference for Campus Women Student Leaders). That earlier attendee was Maggie Fuqua. The conference will be held at the end of May at University of Maryland.

**Eliano Bravo** is a senior majoring in Environmental Science. She is also Co-Chair of the WWU Native American Student Union Club

**Amy Pollock** is a sophomore majoring in chemistry. She is the secretary for SACNAS club (Scientific Advancement of Chicano and Native American Students) and a member of the EIC (Equity and Inclusion Committee) on campus.

Each student received \$1000.00 from Bellingham Branch toward their tuition and transportation, and WWU's College of Science and Engineering also contributed to the students' expenses. We will look forward to hearing these students share their experiences at NCCWSL with us at future meetings.

NCCWSL was born in 1983, when representatives from national gender equity organizations saw the need for a leadership space dedicated to empowering collegiate women. Since then AAUW has taken the helm of the conference and NCCWSL has transformed into a valuable experience for any woman serious about creating meaningful impact on her campus, mobilizing her community, and preparing for personal and professional success after graduation.

### What's happening next month???

An old-fashioned potluck lunch at the YWCA, a white elephant fundraiser and maybe a few party games will be the gentle wind-down after our busy 100th year.

Our only business at the **June 8th** meeting will be installation of officers - come and just enjoy yourself. **Time will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### REEL MOVIE LOVERS

Reel Movie Lovers meets randomly, when there's a good movie to watch. Let host Roni know if you have ideas, questions or suggestions, or if you plan to join the group for a movie (text to 510-435-4747, or email [roni.lenore@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB

Adelante! meets (usually) monthly at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. Next meeting is May 23, and we will discuss *When the Emperor was Divine*, by Julie Otsuka. This is fiction, but about Japanese American internment. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

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

Last month's read was *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, (about the 19th Amendment) by Elaine Weiss. Oops! Only two of us showed up at the meeting, but we both found the book worthwhile - those Suffragists were no shrinking violets!

### 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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