

Popular speaker returns for Tech Trek Day...

First meeting of Fall, Saturday, Sept. 14 10 am. to noon Bellingham YWCA, 1026 North Forest St.



Josephine Hollandbeck’s talk about cybersecurity at one of our meetings several months ago was a big hit, and set everyone to thinking about actions they needed to take. Now, Josephine will be back with a different slant on security: Here is what she said: ***“I’m so looking forward to this talk. Just the other day, I had a customer whose daughter was in your program last summer. She was very excited about cybersecurity as an additional option for her daughter. I run into a lot of women who are very interested in protecting their privacy and their children.”***

So look forward to some materials and training on how to protect yourself online, in terms of particular dangers that women can experience--like stalking, or cases where a woman speaks out against someone online and are then targeted and harassed mercilessly, even in scary ways like having things sent to their house.

Josephine is a residential and commercial electrician working in Whatcom County. This past June, she graduated from the transfer Associate's Cybersecurity program at Whatcom Community College; she was given the Student Discipline Award in Cybersecurity by faculty nomination. In the fall, she will be continuing on with the B.A.S. in Cybersecurity at WCC and is very involved in WiCys--Women in Cybersecurity club at WCC, a national organization. (www.wicys.org) When she isn't researching and working on various projects, she can be found hiking with her dog, Jake, or helping protect what's left of the Old Growth Forest.

Special guests at the meeting will be our 2019 Tech Trek scholarship recipients: Liv Hampton and Julianna Schenkel, Shuksan Middle School; Sydney Wolfson and Angelica Khizhnyak, Kulshan Middle School, and Paige Leonard, Vista Middle School in Ferndale.

They will have stories to tell about their science camp adventures at Pacific Lutheran University.

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What about “AAUW Whatcom”?

by Judith Entwife, Bellingham Branch Co-President

Our name has served us well for 100 years, but AAUW Bellingham is growing and changing! Yes, we still do what we’ve always done: support equity for women and girls through education (scholarships) and advocacy (everything from celebrating the passage of the 19th Amendment to marches and rallies). But now we are doing it more widely.

AAUW Bellingham now offers our programs throughout Whatcom County. We offer college scholarships and trainings like Start Smart not only to central city Western Washington University, but also to Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Community College and NW Indian College. Our High School Scholars recognition program has always been offered to every high school in the county. Now we have more and more attendees at this annual celebration of junior girls. Two years ago, we outgrew our Pickford Theater venue, and this year we burst at the seams at the Old City Hall. Tech Trek, our week-long STEM summer camps on college campuses, has been available to every middle school in the city since its inception. Then, two years ago, we expanded to include Ferndale School District and are on target to include Lynden School District next year. Soon we’ll be in every middle school in the county.

We are even expanding our fundraising and membership efforts beyond the City of Bellingham. Imagine how many more women and girls we could support with the help of county-based businesses and service organizations! Imagine how many more members we might draw when those not living in the city realize that we include them in our service area!

To that end, the Board all agreed that it’s time to change to a more inclusive name. We’ve been kicking around names all year. We’ve considered lots of possible name upgrades: NW Corner, 4th Corner, Whatcom Regional, Whatcom County, Bellingham-Whatcom.... Each one was too obscure or too commercial, too long or too complex or too restrictive. Then the simple, straightforward, inclusive name came to us, a name that is our geographical base, that leaves nobody out, that linguistically reflects an important part of our history in its Native origins, that is both locally ubiquitous and unique to the larger world.

Welcome to AAUW Whatcom!

What do you think? The organization needs your input. Like it? Love it? Have a better idea? If we’re on the same page, we can have our new name in the upcoming year. (It takes a bylaws change that must be approved by state and national levels, but we could vote in September at our first meeting of our new year.) Send your comments to Judith Entwife, jentwife@gmail.com.

Strength in numbers

by Gwen Parker, Newsletter editor

Our new Bellingham Branch Co-President India Nishi admits rather sheepishly that her parents knew her better than she knew herself. When she wanted to study psychology in college, they steered her toward a career in finance. She received her business degree from Western Washington University, hired on at Boeing soon after, and loved the work.

She grew up in the Seattle suburb of Normandy Park, the only child in a Boeing family. Her own career with the company lasted until her retirement in 2014. Always goal-oriented, she wanted to move up in the company, but it took a long while. When she started in the 1980's, Boeing was still a very male-oriented company. But hard work (including getting her MBA) paid off, and when she left the company, she was a finance director with a billion-dollar budget and a staff of about 65 people.

While she loves to travel, she has returned to crunching numbers even in retirement. She is spending a few hours a week in a part-time job for Washington State University, gathering and analyzing data for the Extension Service, ensuring they are in compliance with civil rights regulations. The goal is to be sure that all communities receive proportionate services, across all demographics.

And that's not all she does. She also is a tutor with the Whatcom Literacy Council and a volunteer with the Bellingham/Whatcom Tourism organization. And, after moving to Bellingham two years ago, she completed that long-desired degree in Psychology at WWU. One more activity: After hearing the AAUW National Director, Kim Churches, speak at the State Meeting here last April, India enquired about National's financial situation, and ended up as a member of the National Finance Committee.

India first became a member of AAUW when she and her husband Rick moved to Camano Island after she retired. She was looking for a book club to join, and found one with the Stanwood Camano Island AAUW branch. She quickly embraced the mission of AAUW and became more involved, joining their board as Treasurer. The island turned out to be a little too rural for the couple though, and they ended up in Bellingham in 2017.

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India Nishi in Antarctica

Strength in numbers

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It was after India completed her BS in Psychology that Branch President Judith Entwife approached her about taking on the Bellingham Branch presidency. India was reluctant, since she was quite new to the area, but with Judith's offer of a co-presidency, she took the leap.

All these activities haven't kept India from traveling. Her goal is to get to all seven continents, and she has only one to go: Australia. That trip, to also include New Zealand and Fiji, is already planned for early 2020. Over the last Christmas holiday, she traveled to Antarctica. Other places she has visited include India, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Peru, Europe, Morocco and Vietnam.

Her husband does not care much for international travel, but she has some traveling buddies with whom she can share her adventures. Her husband prefers travel in the United States and long, solo bike rides. He has completed the Seattle-to-Portland (STP) ride about ten times. He holds a degree in Landscape Architecture and worked for the City of Seattle in park planning and project management. The couple has two daughters. One is an occupational therapist, and the other has just started her final year of law school at Columbia University.

India was asked to speak at the AAUW-WA Leadership Conference in Wenatchee last August. Her topic was "Partnering with Local Colleges." She says she found the meeting inspiring, and learned a great deal from members of other branches.

Being a long-term planner by nature and training, she hopes to bring some of that expertise to our branch, and she has some specific goals to work toward: She wants to help improve members' experience with the branch, so that everyone who joins can find enjoyment, purpose, and their niche in the organization. She also wants to encourage the branch to develop a vision for our second hundred years, and to continue to increase our fundraising, so that we can expand our scholarship programs. She says she feels honored to work with so many talented and hard-working women.

And oh yes! She wants us all to "like" the Bellingham AAUW Facebook page!



Don't forget your \$20 bills! Bring them to the Sept. 14 meeting to stamp Harriet Tubman's visage over Andrew Jackson's face. See the July/August newsletter for the full story.

Congratulations to our 2019 Branch Honorees!

At our June meeting, our Bellingham Branch Honorees were announced. They are Rebecca Bunn, especially for her work as campus liaison and assistance with our Centennial celebrations; Kathy Cole, for her work on the Holiday Greenery sale and other projects, and Pam Sankey for her work with our Tech Trek program. Thank you for your dedication to AAUW!

It's college food pantry time again!

Again this school season, Bellingham Branch members are supporting our local university and colleges with food donations.

Going to college can mean unforeseen expenses. The need for emergency food supplies has been identified on local college campuses, and WWU, WCC and BTC have started on-campus pantries.

Carol McKinney is again coordinating our drive to ask members to bring non-perishable food items and toiletries to each general meeting. A basket for donations will be at the front table. (Think tuna, peanut butter, soups, stews, pasta sauce, pasta, vegetarian packets (Thai & Indian). Each month we will donate to a different college. This month, donations go to Whatcom Community College. Cash donations are also welcome.

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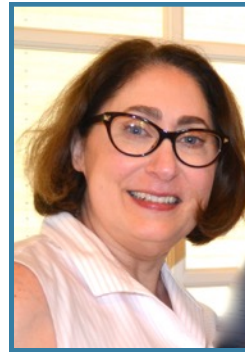
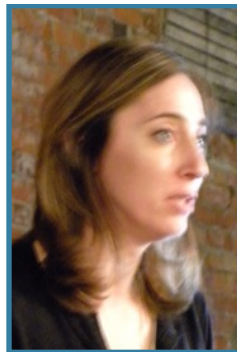
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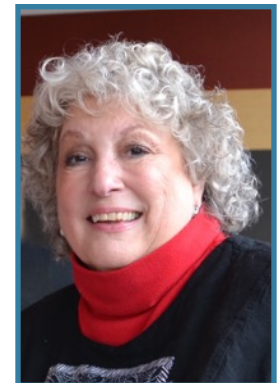
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100 years for the League!

The League of Women Voters of Bellingham & Whatcom County is offering an exclusive **Centennial Calendar** celebrating 100 years of the League of Women Voters and the ratification of the 19th Amendment. It was designed by local artist Mira Kamada and includes dates of significance to women's suffrage and voting rights. The beautiful calendar may be ordered on the League's website: <https://www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/lwvbwc-centennial-calendar>.

AAUW members are encouraged to read *The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss (Our Adelante! group has already discussed it.)

Elaine Weiss will speak at a special event on February 27, 2020 at the Main Stage of the Performing Arts Center, WWU. Published in 2018, the book not only tells the story of how women won the vote, but also shows how the core themes of American history – race, class, money, gender, state's rights, power and democracy all came into play in Nashville, TN in 1920. The February 27 author event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County and the Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education with support from the Votes for Women Centennial Grant, Washington State Historical Society and Washington Women's Commission.

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.

