



## Don't forget to order your holiday greenery!

At the September meeting, we kicked off the fall fund-raiser, **our annual sale of holiday wreaths, swags and centerpieces.** These make great gifts!

The window for ordering from our vendor is not very big — please be sure to have your order in by Oct. 30.

You should already have received an email with the order form and photos of the items for sale, but those will be included again with this newsletter.

Be sure to let people know that buying these items supports college scholarships, High School Scholar recognitions, and Tech Trek camper sponsorships.

Questions? Contact Kathy Cole, [knccole@hotmail.com](mailto:knccole@hotmail.com)



## This will be a honey of a meeting!

Speaker at our Oct. 12 general meeting will be **local beekeeper Michael Jaross.** He will describe his one-person, all by-hand operation that begins with healthy beehives placed around south Bellingham and culminates in a canning operation of this dark, intensely flavored honey, "**Flowers of Fairhaven.**" We will learn about the honey making process, what is happening to bees, how we can help bees, and even sample this truly local natural product.

Jaross has been a volunteer instructor for Western Washington University students in the art of beekeeping, at the campus' Outback Farm. He has educated students and the public alike, producing some of the best honey around.

Speaking of that, he will be bringing some honey from his hives to sell, in case you get a sudden craving!

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Bellingham YWCA, 1026 N. Forest St.

**Members whose last names begin with A through K, please bring a plate of snacks to go with coffee or tea.**

**New Membership Handbooks will be available at the October meeting!**

## 2019 AAUW-Bellingham Scholarships Awarded!

AAUW-Bellingham, with the prime mission of supporting education for girls and women, provides scholarship donations to BTC, Northwest Indian College, Western Washington University, and Whatcom Community College. The amounts may vary from year to year, but recently we have been able to provide \$1000 each to BTC, NWIC, and WCC. The WWU amount varies, since it is determined by the annual proceeds from the AAUW-Bellingham Endowment established at WWU in the 1990s. The following students have been awarded their scholarships for 2019. NWIC has not yet made their selection.

### Bellingham Technical College

**Jessica Crook** – Business Management major. Bellingham resident

Jessica’s goal is to expand her dance studio to more locations in the county.

### Western Washington University (four scholarships given this year!)

**Brielle Lamphere** – Human Services major. Lynden resident

Brielle’s goal is to ultimately enter law school to become a child advocacy lawyer.

**Courtney “Hoku”Iana Rivera** – Creative Writing and Cultural Anthropology majors.  
From Honolulu, HI

Courtney’s goals are to write poetry and to continue her education in Anthropology research.

**Kaitlyn Freitas** – Sociology and Psychology majors. Buckley, WA resident

Kaitlyn’s goal is to earn a Master’s degree in school counseling

**Sylvia Jane Gray** – Kinesiology/ Pre-Healthcare major. Orcas Island resident

Sylvia’s goal is to earn a Master’s level Physician’s Assistant degree with a focus on emergency medicine.

### Whatcom Community College

**Kimberly Johnson** – AAS-T Cybersecurity major. Bellingham resident

Kimberly’s goal is to earn a university degree in computer science or data analytics.



*Submitted by Carol Simmer, Scholarship/College Relations chair*



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**Special September guests:** Speaker Josephine Hollandbeck, center, is surrounded by Bellingham AAUW’s Tech Trek Scholarship winners for 2019. From left, they are Sydney Wolfson, Paige Leonard, Julianna Schenkel and Liv Hampton, as well as Angelica Khizhnyak, inset.



## Returning Tech Trek campers enliven September meeting

*by Gwen Parker, newsletter editor*

Bellingham Branch members were delighted to have this year’s Tech Trek scholarship recipients attend the monthly meeting. They were full of thanks to members, sponsors, parents and teachers for their support. Each one talked about their favorite courses at the week-long STEM camp, such as doing dissections and studying meiosis.

At our meeting, the girls were a rapt audience for speaker Josephine Hollandbeck, an advanced cybersecurity student at Whatcom Community College and a local electrician. Josephine shared videos of an all-female computer hacking competition team, and showed them the many possibilities for careers in cybersecurity. (This was a whole new world for some of us!)

For the first time, Bellingham Branch was able to send a student from a middle school outside of the Bellingham District. She is Paige Leonard, of Vista Middle School in Ferndale.

*See more about the September meeting on pages 4 and 6.*



## **Susan Moen honored for over 40 years of service in AAUW**

At the September meeting, AAUW board members surprised Susan Moen with a cape woven in a First Nations pattern. We wanted to acknowledge her forty-plus years of service, as for almost the first time in those years, she is not holding an AAUW office! She has a long-time interest in native art.

She started in AAUW when she helped form the new Charter Branch in Polson, MT around 1976. She was the first Branch President. She recalls, "At that time most of us did not work outside the home in the small town but we had many talents and wanted to use them to organize and make a difference. I had three kids at home and did some substitute teaching and cleaned up rentals that we owned. I attended the National Convention in Sante Fe and was blown away by the women who spoke and lead conferences. I committed to AAUW and have been active since.

"I served on the AAUW Montana State Board Educational Foundation for several years. I ran for State Membership, but as I was new and only 36, they voted for an older member. I hadn't paid the right dues yet. Still rather funny to remember and I was rather crushed at the time. I stayed on the State Board and raised money for Legal Advocacy Funding for many years in both Montana and Washington.

"I moved to California after remarrying in 1984 and joined the Thousand Oaks Branch, but didn't stay long enough to get very involved there.

"My new husband worked for Boeing Military, and so we moved to Kent, WA. He was a retired army officer. I became the President of the Auburn-Kent Branch around 1986 which morphed into the South King County Branch. Sharon Mattioli was also co-president with me for a while. She is now living here and comes occasionally to our meetings when she isn't traveling. I was very active on the state board of AAUW Washington helping to raise LAF money and arranging speakers.

"I moved to Seattle and joined that branch in 1995. There I was membership VP, did some work on programs and was EF and LAF Chair. Can't quite remember all the positions but I was always active on the Seattle Board. I was a good fund raiser with auctions and Women of History Dinners - great fun. We attended national conventions in Washington DC and New Orleans.

"I moved to Bellingham in 2012 and joined this branch. They were ready to dissolve --- SO, I joined forces with Gwen Parker and we were Co-Presidents for one year, then Gwen was President for 2013-2014, and I was President 2015-17. With help from the Board, we really turned the group into a working organization again. This board sent me to the National Convention in Washington DC about three years ago, and I have been to almost every Washington State Convention.

"Pam Sankey and I were Co Program VPs for a two year stint, and this last year I was membership Co-VP with Robin Kagan. It is nice to think back on the years that I have worked for Women's Rights and Equity."

**Susan models her cape. The design is by Paul Windsor, of the Haisla and Heiltsuk tribes of the Central BC coast.**

## Out and About in Bellingham

- Scholarship/College Relations Chair Carol Simmer and Secretary Jean Cox-Treverton attended the **Bellingham Technical College scholarship breakfast** on the BTC campus on Oct.3. (See our list of local scholarship winners on Page 2.)
- Membership VP's Judi Edwards and Robin Kagan hosted a **New Member Soiree** Sept. 9 at at SpringHill Suites by Marriott. Yummy appetizers - thanks, ladies! Several new or potential members attended, along with several current members.
- AAUW members did not attend as a group, but several marched at the student-sponsored **Climate Rally**. Jo Pullen performed with the Raging Grannies. *The Bellingham Herald* estimated 2500 people took part in the event.



## Interest Group News

**Reel Movie Lovers** needs a new **coordinator!** Roni Lenore has stepped down from this position, so if you would like company at the movies, please contact Roni to learn the details of planning an occasional movie date. [roni.lenore@gmail.com](mailto:roni.lenore@gmail.com)

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### Adelante! Book Club

Adelante! meets (usually) monthly at Arlis's Restaurant, 1525 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham, at noon. Next meeting is Oct. 24, and we will discuss *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance. Contact Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

*Should you add it to your reading list ???*  
September's book was *What It's Like to be a Dog*. It got a big thumbs up.

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### 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. Usually, you can contact Susan Moen if you are interested in joining other members to view shows and possibly have lunch to complete the outing. This month, however, you are on your own, as Susan is otherwise engaged. [susanmoen@comcast.net](mailto:susanmoen@comcast.net), or 206-399-4909

**October 2019 Calendar**

12th General Meeting/Program on bees 10 am at the YWCA

15th Decoration workshop

24th Adelante! Book Club at Arlis's, noon.

28th Board meeting at India Nishi's house, 2pm

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**Big change set in motion  
at September Branch meeting**

***After an explanatory article in the last newsletter, members at the September meeting voted in favor of pursuing a name change for the branch, from Bellingham to Whatcom.***

This is not a “done deal” until several hoops have been jumped through at the state and national AAUW levels. There will also be some documents to change, such as our bank accounts, insurance forms, etc.

Stayed tuned, and you will be the first to know when this change for our second century is finalized.

**Happy October Birthday!**

- 5th India Nishi
- 16th Louise Bjornson
- 20th Maggie Moore



Fall Crocus

## *Welcome*

Bellingham AAUW offers scholarships and supports numerous programs which help women and girls gain equity in all areas of life.



## **YOU can be a member of AAUW Bellingham!**

***We do so much and have fun doing it!***

AAUW Bellingham supports equity for women and girls at the national level by paying dues for lobbying, research and program development. At the local level we give up to seven annual college scholarships, recognize more than 40 accomplished high school juniors each year, send up to eight middle school girls to Tech Trek for a week-long STEM experience, support WCC's Girls Go Tech and, coming soon, by offering training in obtaining pay equity through StartSmart and WorkSmart workshops. And, of course, we raise money to do all this.

**We have four levels of membership. Choose the one that fits you:**

**Regular membership** is for graduates with a 2- or 4-year degree, women and men. This level comes with full voting rights on local, state and national issues and costs \$80 annually.

**Friends of AAUW** are our local supporters who don't have college degrees. They work (and play!) alongside local regular and student members, but are ineligible to vote. The yearly dues for Friends are only \$40.

**Student memberships come in two options.** Our local branch offers local high school and college students who work with us free local-only membership. The national organization also offers student membership, which is free for students at participating colleges, including WWU, WCC and BTC, or \$18.81 annually for students at unaffiliated colleges. National student membership applications are online.

## **New Public Policy Chair**

Bellingham Branch member **George Edwards** has taken over the position of Public Policy Chair. Contact him for a list of Washington State bills that AAUW supports.



## **Student Pantry**

Thanks to everyone who generously donated cash or food items to the college pantry in September. This is an ongoing project during the school year, so donations in October also will be appreciated! This month's recipients will be students at Western Washington University.

## **Get the app! See us on Facebook!**

Bellingham Branch thanks temporary **intern Julia Braunbeck** for handling our social media page.

**Bellingham Branch AAUW**

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**Author and branch member  
Candace Wellman writes again!**

*by Gwen Parker*

Candace Wellman’s new book, *Interwoven Lives*, has actually been

available for about five months, but I was slow to realize that and then pick up a copy. The book is a companion volume to her award-winning *Peace Weavers*. Each book follows the lives of four 19th century indigenous women who influenced Bellingham Bay area settlement through their cross-cultural marriages.

*Interwoven’s* subjects are Jenny Wynn, Elizabeth Patterson, Mary Allen and Mrs. George Pickett. It gives details about the Pacific Northwest experience of future Confederate Brigadier General Pickett.

The first book, *Peace Weavers* (WSU Press, 2017) won a national WILLA literary award for nonfiction. When Candace spoke to us about *PeaceWeavers* in November of 2017, she said the research had taken her 18 years. She explained this by saying, “Any time I saw a noun, I researched it.” Much of that research eventually found its way into the second volume, as the original vision was for only one book. 🌸🌸🌸



**Welcome to a new member!**

**Renee Sherrer** is a graduate of University of North Texas, and the creator and owner of Social Fabric, at 1302 Commercial Street in Bellingham.

On her website she writes, “‘Social Fabric’ is the relationships and connections we make with one another; making us all a part of the common thread of society as a whole.

“Much like the definition of ‘Social Fabric,’ we aim to create connections which bind our community through our events, boutique and sewing classes!”