

AAUW

Whatcom Branch

2020 High School Scholars Named

Whatcom Branch of AAUW is proud and pleased to announce its list of High School Scholars for 2020. This is the 19th year that

our local branch of AAUW has honored female students selected by their high schools for excellence in academics. Last year, arts and humanities was added to the STEM disciplines of science, technology and mathematics to create a new acronym, STEAM. Every high school in Whatcom County is invited to choose a student in each field.

Bellingham High School

Abigail Burnett -- Math
Rose M. Horan -- Science
Paige Artino -- Technology
Audrey Lee -- Art and Humanities

Blaine High School

Odelia Dahl -- Math
Elishka Monnik -- Science
Jerusalem Sintayehu -- Arts and Humanities

Lynden Christian High School

Katie Buist -- Math
Emma Vande Voort -- Science, Arts and Humanities
Samantha Buist -- Technology

Lynden High School

Riley Chanin Burks -- Math
Alana Brooke Kooi -- Science
Noelle Marie Hansen -- Technology
Ayla Marie Metz -- Arts and Humanities

Mt. Baker High School

Keridwyn Bray -- Math
Petra Allred -- Science
Hannah Brendley -- Arts and Humanities

Meridian High School

Karissa Benson -- Math
Claire Skaggs -- Science
Mansheel Chawla -- Technology
Tenley Swope -- Arts and Humanities

Nooksack Valley High School

Maya Galley -- Math
Erika Bautista Sanchez -- Science
Lexi Strong -- Arts and Humanities

Sehome High School

Abigail Munson -- Math
Olivia Little -- Science
Serena Tyran -- Technology
Maya Cornwall -- Arts and Humanities

Squalicum High School

Sofia G. Mesquita -- Math
Maya Haggan -- Science
Grace Truemper -- Technology
Ava Brodeur -- Arts and Humanities

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Branch members get virtual face time with AAUW CEO

Members of Bellingham/Whatcom Branch joined Kim Churches, National AAUW CEO, in a Five Star Leadership Meeting June 1. The virtual event was set up by Kim just for our branch as recognition of our achieving Five Star status.

“Zooming” with us from her home in Washington, DC, Kim congratulated us for being one of the first branches to reach Five Star status, and dived right into a discussion of AAUW challenges, goals and activities.

She told us that there will be a Get Out the Vote campaign coming soon. She also talked about a focus group that was recently sponsored by AAUW. A mixed group of people ages 21 to 40 talked about what they wanted in an organization. Most weren’t interested, Kim said, in a group that had “women” in the name: They want men involved, also, and they definitely want gender equity. There is also a hunger for professional development resources. This will be even more important as people try to find new jobs as the economy recovers from the Covid-19 recession.

We also talked about ways to keep members close to each other during this period of quarantine. Kim had heard from other groups about Zoom cook-ins, steps challenges and virtual book clubs.

Check out the redesigned national AAUW web site. Kim says that the bold “Equity Now” headline came from a discussion with her young daughter — one of the benefits of working from home!



AAUW CEO Kim Churches



June Celebrations for:

Barb Craig	2
Kay Davin	11
Annette Holcomb	12
Ruth Norman	22
Gerry Prody	24
Susan Moen	25

A perspective for High School Scholars

by Gwen Parker, AAUW newsletter editor

Whatcom AAUW's annual High School Scholars event is one of our members' favorite things. We are so sad to have to cancel this year's program because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We wish all our scholars the best in their future endeavors, and here is what we would like to tell you:

Most of our AAUW members have lived several decades longer than you, and time has shown that we will get through this. In some of our members' lifetimes, we have survived the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the fear of polio and the atom bomb. The economy goes up and down like a yo-yo. What holds us together through all of this and more is kindness and determination.

People born right after World War II are known as Baby Boomers. People who endured World War II are called The Greatest Generation. When the current crises have passed, you scholars will be part of a new cohort, with a nickname yet to be determined. People will remember that you had your lives up-ended, and carried on anyway.

Here are two notes related to this year's HSS event. I think they illustrate how we carry on:
From Abigail Burnett, Bellingham High School: "Thank you so much for this honor! I am so glad to be associated with such an amazing organization!
 Abby"

From Craig Tyran, Serena Tyran's (Sehome High School) father: "Thank you for coordinating this program. Serena's grandmother (my mother) was very involved w/AAUW and coordinated a similar type of program many years ago in Oregon. It is exciting for Serena to be one of the young women selected for your program/award. We realize that this year's event may be cancelled due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, thanks again. Craig Tyran (Serena's Dad)"



Our Virtual Discounted Membership Event has been extended through July 31!!!

If you are interested in joining us here are your options:

Friend

Student Memberships

Discounted full memberships

If you are interested in joining, contact us at

aauwbellinghambranch@gmail.com

Welcome to a new member!

We are pleased to welcome another Sudden Valley resident, **Judith Paulson**, as an AAUW member. Judy is a Certified Financial Planner.

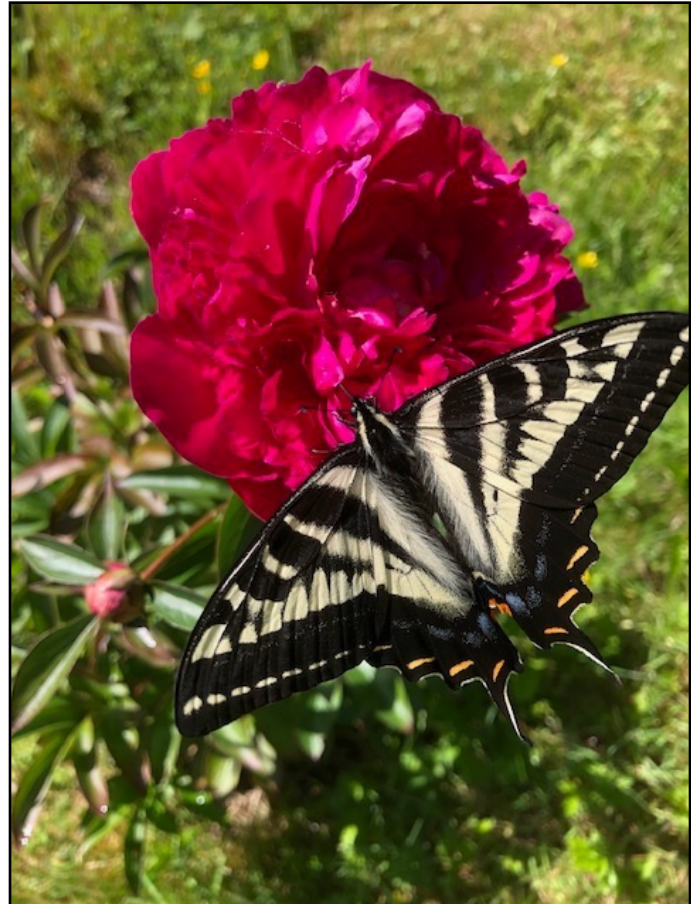
Budget and ballot

As reported in the May newsletter, Whatcom Branch board members agreed to hold elections via email ballots, due to our continued moratorium on gathering during the COVID-19 pandemic. Paper ballots will be mailed to those who do not use email.

Look for those ballots sometime this week, with instructions on a deadline for return.

A PDF copy of the budget will be included in the email which transmits this newsletter. In a note to accompany the budget, Co-president India Nishi writes: "In April, the board met and approved the 2020-21 Fiscal Year budget. This budget is aligned to the strategic plan that we completed earlier this year, which established priorities and goals for our branch to work on over the next two to three years. If you are interested in reading the plan it can be found on our website at: <https://bellingham-wa.aauw.net/strategic-plan/>).

"While we will continue to use our funds to pay for operations, scholarships, Tech Trek, and our other normal activities, in the upcoming budget we also plan to support additional outreach to the community, advocacy of our mission, growing our membership and increased recognition of young scholars. These additional activities will be funded in part through a very generous gift that our branch received anonymously several months ago. We also plan to continue fundraising, and are looking at some opportunities for new ways to do this. Finally, many of you will be glad to know that we are eliminating the \$5 door fee at our monthly meetings. This has not resulted in enough participation to offset the administrative burden that it generates. We do hope however that you will continue to support us through your donations for High School Scholars, scholarships and Tech Trek. If you have questions about the budget, you can address them to aaubellingham@gmail.com." 🦋



"and what is so rare as a day in June?"
Photo compliments of Pat Banasky's daughter, Amy James Klco.

Welcome

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

See our website for details on membership:
www.aauw-wa.org



Editorial

by Gwen Parker

- *“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”*
- *“May you live in interesting times”*

These well-known phrases have echoed in my mind as we all are witnesses to a period that will take up a large chapter in history books. First, the COVID-19 pandemic, and then a worldwide protest of police brutality against black people.

It is too early to tell what the history books will say. The unanswered questions: How many people will be infected by the virus? Will we have a vaccine? Will this finally be the time when racism will be overcome? What will the world look like next year? In ten years?

The image of George Floyd dying under the knee of a police officer overlays the memory of another image, from 1970, of a teenage girl kneeling beside the body of a Kent State student shot by a National Guardsman during demonstrations against the Vietnam War. The circumstances were different, but the pain remains the same.

I hope that photos of the Bellingham protest on June 6, 2020, also will become iconic: an estimated 7,000 people, gathered below the landmark Old City Hall building in support of peace and justice. Many wore masks to protect against the virus - the indelible link between pandemic and protest.

I also hope that this will be a new - and more positive - entry into Whatcom County's history of racial discrimination. Blacks, Muslims, Asians and Native Americans have all suffered discrimination here. Ethnic populations have been redlined, expelled or terrorized. The Ku Klux Klan was a strong presence throughout the county in the 1920s, and the practice of “sundowning” - escorting Blacks out of town at nightfall - was used by Bellingham police as late as 1970.

As AAUW members, we have a long history of working for equity. Let us use current events to renew our dedication to building a better world.



(Thanks to Kathy Cole for pointing me to WWU's *Bellingham Racial History Timeline*. I recommend it.)

Interest group news

Adelante! Book Group

Shall we try a Zoom meeting for book club? If all you bookies agree, I will try to learn how to set it up. We are supposed to be reading *Kopp Sisters on the March*, by Amy Stewart. (Historical fiction set in the US.) I thought about this last month, but didn't get moving in time. Contact me, Gwen Parker, 360-933-4314.

Ya Gotta Have Art

Subscribe to the *Jansen Art Center website* and you should get a periodic email with photos of local artists' work.

Check out the *Insider Blogs on the Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism website*, especially the *Whatcom Arts Project*.

There's a new virtual guided tour at the Lightcatcher Museum.

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