

**You Are Invited
to attend AAUW's
"Gal"entine Poetry Program
Saturday, Feb. 13th,
from 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom.
Wear your favorite hat, hear
original poetry and enjoy
camaraderie with women who
care deeply about Equity for
Women and Girls!**



Poet Linda Conroy

Back by popular demand! Linda initially shared her meaningful words at our November 2019 branch meeting. She is the author of the poetry collection *Ordinary Signs*. Linda will read her new poem created just for AAUW members.

In the process of writing, she says, we discover the unexpected, the ordinary and the unique; we say things we did not know we knew.

Linda has a long history as a social worker. She focuses now on writing, publishing her poetry works, speaking engagements and hosting writing groups, such as at Village Books.

Linda uses poetry to show the simplicity and complexity of behaviors that make us human.

More info: Page 2

AAUW

Whatcom Branch

Poet Setsuko Buckley

Setsuko, an AAUW member, will read haikus she has created.

Setsuko is a professor in the Languages Department at Whatcom Community College.

The WCC World Languages Department offers language instruction in seven languages, including Japanese.

In addition to language instruction, the World Languages Department, in collaboration with the International Programs, supports the Global Awareness Project, the purpose of which is to enhance cross-cultural understanding among the constituents of the WCC community.



Celebrating Black History Month - and All of Our Futures

Because our February program is focusing on poetry, and because our nation is undergoing a time of political unrest, it is fitting that we also include a Black poet who has encapsulated the nation's struggle to reach its ideals. We will send a separate email with Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman's poem for President Biden's inauguration, "The Hill We Climb," so we may discuss it.

Watch for an email from Judi Edwards with the Zoom meeting invitation.

"If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change, our children's birthright."

—Amanda Gorman



"Can't we all just get along?"

— Rodney King

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela

"Peace cannot exist where justice is not served."

—US Rep. John Lewis on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

—Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

"The time is always right to do what is right."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

—Barack Obama

"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness." —Ola Joseph

"You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it." —Malcolm X



Remember when we stamped Harriet's face on our own \$20 bills? The Biden administration has announced it will resume the process to add abolitionist Harriet Tubman to the \$20 bill. Tubman will become the first Black person on the face of American paper currency. The Obama administration announced plans to put Tubman on the bill in 2016, after she was chosen from among several women in an informal nationwide poll. President Donald Trump and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin scuttled those plans in 2019.

“Black history isn’t a separate history. This is all of our history, this is American history, and we need to understand that. It has such an impact on kids and their values and how they view black people.” —Karyn Parsons

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.” —Alice Walker

“Do we care to match the reality of America to its ideals?” —Barack Obama

“The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.” — W.E.B. Du Bois

In a meeting at the Capitol to discuss events of the Jan. 6 insurrection there, U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips, Democrat from Minnesota, recounted the events of that day.

Phillips was in the House gallery with about 20 colleagues as Congress tallied the Electoral College vote certifying Joe Biden's victory over Donald Trump. He said he thought being taken hostage would be the best-case scenario.

“Recognizing that we were sitting ducks in this room as the Chamber was about to be breached, I screamed to my colleagues to follow me, to follow me across the aisle to the Republican side of the Chamber so that we could blend in.”

He thought the insurrectionists would spare them if they mistook them for Republicans, he explained. “But within moments I recognized that blending in was not an option available to my colleagues of color

“So I'm here tonight,” Phillips said, “to say to my brothers and sisters in Congress and all around our country, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

“For I have never understood – really understood – what privilege really means. It took a violent mob of insurrectionists and a lightning bolt moment in this very room, but now I know, believe me, I really know.”

Whatcom Branch Executive Board holds the line on dues increase

At the last board meeting, it was decided that for the coming year, Whatcom Branch will absorb the \$3 dues increase that has been set by National AAUW. Because we have not had expenses for in-person meetings for nearly a year, and economic struggles are an outcome of the COVID pandemic, it seemed an appropriate thing that we could do.

Our annual business meeting is next month, and it is also the start of our membership renewal season. We will be looking for volunteers to fill several board positions.

Any member wishing to attend a board meeting may contact Judi Edwards to be added to the Zoom invitation.

Nominating Committee

The Whatcom County AAUW Branch is in the process of seeking a list of candidates for elected positions beginning in June of 2021. If you would like to participate on this committee we would love to have your input. Please contact Catherine Chambers, co-president at 360-920-5385.

Open positions will be Branch president and program vice president. Setsuko Buckley remains for her second year as membership vice president, with Judi Edwards stepping down as co-VP at the end of her term. Judith Paulson remains as treasurer for the second half of her two-year term, and Jean Cox-Treverton has agreed to be nominated for another term as secretary.

Don't forget to vote in the National AAUW art contest!

We have three local entrants:
Kay Davin, Susan Moen and Teizeen Mohamedali.

Voting begins on the national website on February. 10 and will close on March 3. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring.



*January general meeting***Forging new bonds**

A new relationship is forming as a result of the January 9 general meeting.

Our guest speaker was Julie Ann *Sa'Leit'Sa Kwina* Johnson, an enrolled Lummi Tribe member, and one of our Washington State Electors for the 2020 Presidential election.

Mrs. Johnson talked about the experience of Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, and explained how she came to be a resident of the Makah Nation: She lived on the Lummi Reservation until she was about five years old, when the family house burned to the ground. In that time of upheaval, her father found a job at Neah Bay, and she has made that area her home ever since.

Her story reveals a woman who makes connections by staying involved. She has a long list of elected positions and volunteer work, such as being the first Native American woman to be elected as Clallam County Democratic Committeewoman. She also provides support services for family members of missing and murdered Native women. Last year, she was head of the National Indian Women "Supporting Each Other" Honoring Luncheon, where then-Senator Kamala Harris was the keynote speaker.

Mrs. Johnson is currently Chair of the Northwest Indian College (NWIC) Foundation Board of Directors. In an informal question-and-answer session after her talk to Whatcom Branch members, we asked how we could best support the college. She said working with the Foundation is a good way, and will stay in contact with our Branch.

Welcome

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

See our website for details on membership:

www.aauw-wa.org

Branch members on Facebook — Why not post this note to FB and ask your friends to join us!

You are Invited to attend AAUW's "Gal"entine Poetry Program

Saturday, Feb. 13th, from 10 a.m. to noon, via Zoom.

Wear your favorite hat, hear original poetry and enjoy camaraderie with women who care deeply about Equity for Women and Girls!

AAUW Public Policy update

These are a few of Washington AAUW's Legislative Priorities:

1. Working Families Tax Credit (HB1297/SB 5387)
IHB 1297 passed out of committee on February 4th and will now move to Appropriations. The Working Families Tax Credit would provide a \$500 annual cash payment to low and moderate-income workers each year with an additional payment for children in the home. The tax credit would be available to families who qualify for the EITC and immigrant families who file with an Individual Tax ID number (ITIN). Learn more about the Working Families Tax Credit from the Washington State Budget and Policy Center.
2. Fair Starts for Kids Act (SB 5237/HB 1213)
Both of these bills have been voted out of committees and now head to the House and Senate fiscal committees. These bills aim to address Washington's child care crisis.
3. Improving Access to Paid Family and Medical Leave (HB1073/SB 5097)
4. Protecting Pregnant Patients Act (SSB 5140)
5. Abortion Coverage in Student Health Plans (HB 1009)
6. Improving care for survivors of non-fatal strangulation (SB 5183)

Communications

Newsletter & Website

Gwen Parker

360-933-4314

parker.gwen@comcast.net

Judi Edwards

360-303-0487

jedwards@syscongrp.com

Bellingham Branch AAUW

P.O. Box 29862 Bellingham, WA 98228

www.aauw-wa.org

Executive Board 2020

Co-Presidents

Catherine Chambers

chamberscatherine318@gmail.com

Robin Lynn Kagan

360-303-0479

raquel_playz@comcast.net

Treasurer

Judith Paulson

paulsonfinancial@pogozone.net

Program Co-Chairs

Lisa Hammond

360-742-6328

lisahammond.360@gmail.com

Margo Hammond

360-325-6510

margo_hammond@hotmail.com

Membership Co-Chairs

Judi Edwards

360-303-0487

jedwards@syscongrp.com

Setsuko Buckley

setsuko_b@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jean Cox-Treverton

360-392-0043

jeancoxtreverton@ymail.com