

Hooray!

**We will meet *in person*
on June 9th!!**

Whatcom AAUW will hold its year-end meeting at Cordata Park, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the large covered area.

Please note that this is a **Wednesday**, not our usual Saturday meeting.

You don't need to pack your picnic basket: A catered meal is being provided, with your choice of a turkey and swiss croissant sandwich, or vegetarian version. Gluten free versions are also available. All sandwiches will have a homemade mayo/Dijon mustard sauce. A fruit kabob, chips, cupcake and drink are included.

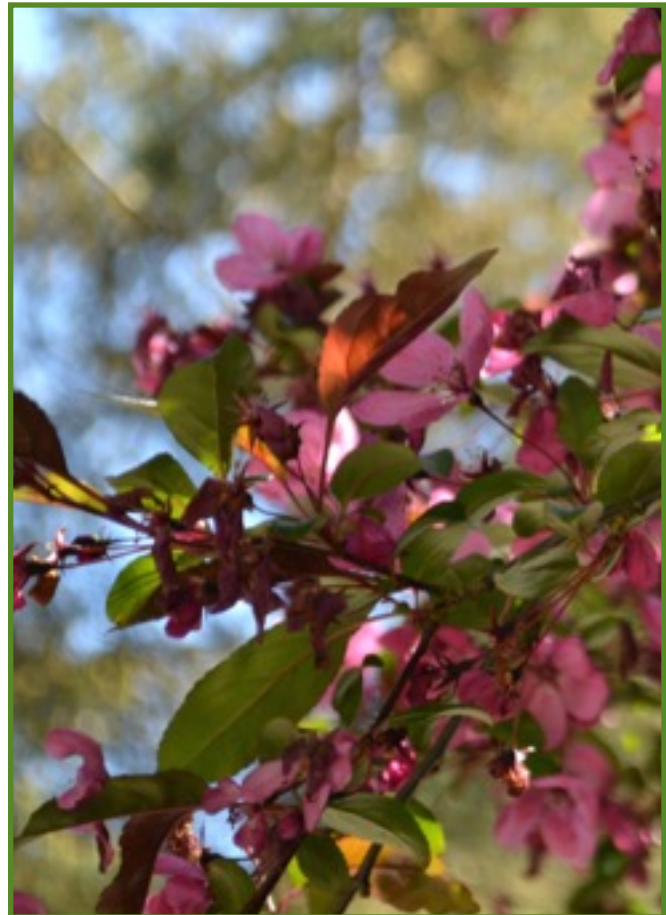
Please plan to bring a mask, and if picnic table bench seating is not your style, bring your favorite lawn chair.

We will hold installation of officers, and we also have two \$30 gift certificates to raffle off. Members can bring used books or other donations for the drawing, too.

Members should have received an **Eventbrite** invitation from Judi Edwards, via email.. **RSVPs are needed** so that the correct number of meals can be ordered. RSVPs close at midnight on June 5. If you miss the window to RSVP please contact jedwards@syscongrp.com

AAUW

Whatcom Branch



Getting to Cordata Park

The new Cordata Park is just a little way north of Whatcom Community College, on the opposite side of Cordata Parkway. It is best to take the Parkway from the south (such as Bakerview Road), since the only entrance is on the east side of the divided road. There is ample parking. **Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are needed** for our picnic on June 9th! Please phone Robin @ 360.303.0479.

GIANT ASIAN HORNET Trapping Season is Approaching! Want to Help??

Last year AAUW-Whatcom members offered to set traps for the Giant Asian Hornet (also known as the Murder Hornet!) on their property. I hope the same members plus MORE will want to do it this year. Honey bees are too important for us not to try to keep them protected from the invasion of this Giant Asian Hornet.



Supplies will be given to you for the 22 weeks of trapping season starting July 1st. If you let me know you are interested, I will order the supplies for you. They will be delivered to me and we can make arrangements for pick-up or delivery to you.

To find out details about how to trap, go to the website: agr.wa.gov/hornets. Scroll down and click to the “trapping” section. Your questions may be answered there, but you may call me at any time for more information. **Since the traps need to be placed by July 1st or shortly after, I would like to know your interest by June 12th!** Perhaps you can tell me at our June picnic meeting on June 9th! Let your friends and neighbors know and perhaps they will trap, too!

For those who trapped last year, some rules have changed to make it easier. You may want to check the website this year for the changes.

Honey bee lover,

Carol Simmer (360) 961-4519

Installation of Officers to be held at Cordata Park Meeting June 9

Four board members will be installed at the June 9 meeting at Cordata Park. They are **Judi Edwards, Co-President; Kimberly Butts, Membership Co-Vice President; Uzma Ahmad, Program Vice President**, and **Jean Cox-Treverton**, who was re-elected as **Secretary**.

For a few months, current Co-President **Catherine Chambers** will remain on the job. **Setsuko Buckley** remains for her second year as Membership Co-Vice President. **Judith Paulson** remains as Treasurer for the second half of her two-year term. **Margo Hammond** and **Lisa Hammond** step down at the end of their terms as Program Co-Vice Presidents.

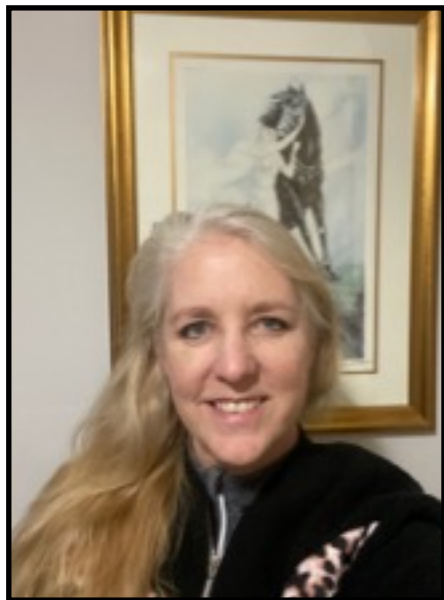
Thanks to both old and new officers!

Meet Kimberly, Uzma and Judi...

by Gwen Parker, Newsletter Editor

Two new officers whom you may not have had a chance to meet are **Kimberly Butts** and **Uzma Ahmad**. To help you get to know them, here are the results of short interviews done by telephone.

Also, **Judi Edwards**, our incoming president, tells a little about herself. She is our highly esteemed tech guru, who has shepherded us through many Zoom meetings, helped with pre-pandemic slide show set-ups, and done many more tech-related chores for us.



Kimberly Butts

When Kimberly Butts sent me her photo to use with this article, I asked if the painting behind her had special meaning, and indeed it does. It originally belonged to her mother. Growing up in Reseda, CA, Kimberly rode horses, and now some years later and many miles to the north in Point Roberts, WA, she still rides.

That's only one interest in a busy life. She telecommutes to her job with a civil engineering company in San Diego, is president of her husband Jeff's non-profit, Eagle SkyeNet, and is a rep for Zya Active, an active and leisure wear company. In her "spare time" she enjoys gardening and watercolor painting, and hanging out with her Siberian Husky.

(Continued on Page 4)

Uzma Ahmad

One of the first subjects to come up when I chatted by phone with Uzma Ahmad was gender equity. She is the wife of Western Washington University President Sabah Randhawa, and also a psychologist and counselor. I asked her whether she had established a new counseling practice when the couple came to Western over five years ago from Oregon State University. She said that while she still



owns a business in Oregon, she decided when Sabah took the WWU position that she would devote herself to the Western community.

(Continued on Page 4)

Kimberly Butts (continued from Page 3)

The Zya connection started when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Locked down in Point Roberts, she was looking for something fun to do, when a friend of hers had an online Zya party. She decided that was just the thing to help her be in contact with other women, as well as the bonus of working with a woman-owned company.

Kimberly started her college years at a community college in California, studying technical illustration. From there, she went to Cal State Northridge, and also worked at a civil engineering company doing filing and other office work. They later hired her as a drafter, and she learned on the job. Her job now is to make drawings that show what can be placed on a piece of raw land, taking into account all aspects of the site, including the pertinent codes and regulations that would apply. The plans could be for a residential project or a wide variety of industrial uses. She then passes the drawing to the engineers for the next stage of design.

Settling in Point Roberts has to do with Kimberly's husband. About 130 years ago, Point Roberts was a military reserve where Jeff's great-grandfather was stationed. He later homesteaded there, and had the first general store in Point Roberts. One of his brothers ran the mailboat from Blaine, and another manned a lighthouse. Jeff's mother was raised in Point Roberts, and since his father was a school teacher, they were able to spend each summer there.

With its treed, coastal location, Point Roberts is ideal eagle habitat. Jeff is an expert in bald eagles, and if you check out the Eagle SkyeNet website, you will see that he has a passion to protect them. As well as educating people about the birds, he also rescues injured raptors and takes them to a rehabilitation center in Delta, BC. Since she works from home, Kimberly is often the one who takes reports of injured birds.

**Uzma Ahmad** (continued from Page 3)

This got us talking about the worldwide expectation that women will serve as unpaid support for their husbands in their careers. I said that perhaps that was beginning to change, and cited the fact that Jill Biden still teaches, even though her husband has become President of the United States.

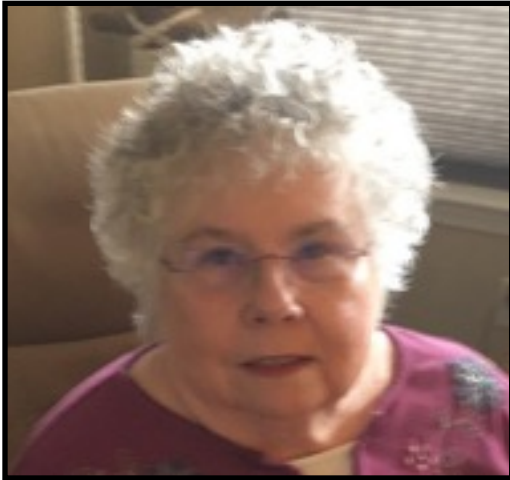
Uzma worked as a counselor for 25 years, specializing in helping persons abused as children. In her biography on the WWU website, Uzma says the cornerstones of resilient families are resilient, healthy mothers. "If we don't have healthy mothers, we cannot have healthy communities."

Besides equity, she supports recognizing humanity in others and the power of kindness, and works for those causes at Western.

As well as being a member of AAUW, Uzma supports Days for Girls, a nonprofit organization that prepares and distributes sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls who would otherwise miss school during their monthly periods. Uzma holds a Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology from Punjab University, and an MS in Counseling Psychology from OSU. She and her husband both grew up in Pakistan, and were introduced by their parents. After they were married, it took nearly two years for her to get through the red tape so she could join Sabah in Oregon, where he was associated with Oregon State University for many years. They have one daughter, a graduate of OSU, who lives in Oregon. Uzma has six siblings — three in Pakistan, one in England, and two in the US.

For relaxation, Uzma paints watercolors, and has just started dabbling in acrylic paints.





Judi Edwards, CCP, MBA

Since joining AAUW in 1993 I have performed several functions at the state level. I had the pleasure of being the newsletter editor and secretary. I also spent some time as the webmaster. When it came time for our district to host the state convention, I chaired the effort. I avidly support Tech Trek and I am a member of the Legacy Circle.

Initially I joined the Bellingham Branch but moved my membership to Mount Vernon and stayed active there until the group had to close. While at Mount Vernon I was secretary, and for a brief time the treasurer. I chaired the High School Scholars committee for many years. I also served as the Branch President. After Mount Vernon closed I moved my membership back to Bellingham and volunteered for the board. I am now finishing up as membership co-chair. Since my professional background is in technology I have been assisting the branch with various technical efforts. Most notably the ZOOM Master and helping with the website.

So, on to my personal endeavors. I hold a B.S. in Animal Science and an MBA in Information Systems. The road from animal science to software engineer is a story in itself: later. I have been a small business owner and corporate level I.T. (Information Technology) Manager. Among my favorite pastimes are live theater, gardening and travel. I do dislike slugs and snails immensely. Being raised in a military family, traveling is in my blood. But at the end of the day there is a great deal of pleasure enjoyed by having a cocktail with my lifelong love, George (also an AAUW member). Somewhere in the mix of all this I was the campaign treasurer for two local political candidates. Now that was an experience! 🌸🌸🌸🌸

Membership matters!

Hello everyone!
June is the month to renew our dues to keep our membership active in AAUW. Since National has raised their portion of the amount to \$62, the total for this next fiscal year is \$83 (State \$10; Branch \$11). Note that \$56 of the National portion is tax deductible and when you renew on-line at the national website www.aauw.org/ membership using the Membership Services Database you can print a tax receipt for that amount.

You will need your membership number to login to the database; contact Setsuko at Setsuko_b@yahoo.com or Judi at jedwards@syscongrp.com for your number. You can always send a check to our treasurer Judith Paulson at:

PO Box 29862
Bellingham 98228

If you need help with the national website please contact me:

Judi Edwards
jedwards@syscongrp.com

From our May meeting...

Bellingham Public Schools Covid-19 response

by Gwen Parker, Newsletter Editor

The old phrase “trying to drink from a firehose” came to mind when listening to our May speakers discuss handling the COVID-19 pandemic in the Bellingham School District. Although each of the three women was eager to praise others, it quickly became obvious that the school district was blessed to have strong women to develop and execute plans. Our speakers were:

- Jenny Lawrence, Teacher on Special Assignment and district COVID coordinator
- Jessica Sankey, Executive Director of Operations
- Nyla Thursday, Health & Safety Data Specialist

Also present, and taking part in the discussion was the woman our speakers called “Our Dr. Fauci,” Dr. Sara Mostad, Bellingham infectious disease specialist and daughter of our branch member Susan Moen. (Jessica Sankey is the daughter of member Pam Sankey.) These mentions are just to give credit where it is due!

Relationships, leadership and strategies were the key elements of putting together what was a huge project — to switch to a remote learning model, keep the food program going, and develop cohesive responses despite cultural divisiveness within the district population.

Some of the challenges were finding childcare for first responders, making sure individual needs of families were met (such as loaning out desks where needed, and a variety of equipment to special needs students.) Another challenge was getting 4,000 meals a week to families. Many bus drivers stepped in to help with that huge task. The Bellingham Food Bank and Common Threads were community partners here, and Northwest Laboratories helped make COVID testing more accessible.

Other challenges were the changing national and state guidelines, communication over new platforms, differences in buildings that meant solutions often had to be unique. Also, anxiety and exhaustion among the staff and parents was always present.

What were the wins? School staff and students learned new skills and new ways to connect. New friendships were built, leading to stronger and more resilient communities. Also, the need to supply meals kept some farmers and grocers in business.

When the dust of the pandemic settles, the lessons learned will be written down and preserved for future use.



Dear New Members of AAUW Whatcom Branch,

Welcome!

We appreciate your interest in and commitment to our organization and to fulfilling our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Furthermore, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Given the AAUW mission and diversity statement, we provide a variety of branch projects such as High School Scholars Recognition, Tech Trek, College Food Pantry, Western Foundation AAUW Endowment, scholarships to other local institutions, and Girls Go Tech. We maintain a relationship with the Canadian Federation of University Women. In addition, as the pandemic eases, we will renew our branch interest groups such as a monthly book club, movie-viewing club, and art club.

Under the pandemic situation, since it has been difficult for us to gather in-person, we have held online meetings via Zoom. However, we are pleased to announce that we will hold a general meeting in person at Cordata Park on June 9, 4:30 – 6:30 pm to celebrate our accomplishments of the 2020-2021 and to install new officers for 2021-2022 as well as introduction of new members. Your participation is most welcome.

We have another Zoom meeting scheduled for the second Saturday morning in July, and hope to resume in-person meetings in September. You will be cordially invited each month via our newsletter or other email.

In order to run the programs and interest group activities smoothly, we need more volunteers to serve in subcommittees, and can utilize your talents and expertise. The next general meeting is a good opportunity for you to fill in the form about your volunteering interests. Otherwise, please email setsuko_b@yahoo.com, to inform us of your particular interest in subcommittees.

We look forward to meeting you all on June 9th.

Sincerely,

Judi Edwards and Setsuko Buckley,
Co-Vice Presidents for Membership



Happy June Birthday!

Barbara Craig 2nd
 Kay Davin 11th
 Marziah Kiehn 11th
 Annette Holcomb 12th
 Ruth Norman 22nd
 Gerry Prody 24th
 Susan Doen 25th



Bellingham Branch AAUW

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Executive Board 2020

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Setsuko Buckley

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Secretary

Jean Cox-Treverton

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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

Communications

Newsletter & Website

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