

Don't miss the first of this two-part series:

Via Zoom –

10 a.m. Saturday, March 13

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

AAUW

Whatcom Branch

Human Trafficking

Our own Whatcom Branch members Lynda Buehring and Norma Mouton will present this discussion.

What is Human Trafficking and How Does it Affect Our Communities?

Human trafficking is the result of years - sometimes generations - of vulnerabilities that have been unnoticed, unaddressed, unreported, or under-resourced.

In most cases, a person who has been trafficked lived a life with compounding vulnerabilities such as: trauma, abuse, neglect, disability, violence, family breakdown, homelessness, poverty or, more than likely, a combination of several factors. *All it takes is for someone to maliciously exploit the vulnerabilities and start the trafficking process.*

Lynda Buehring retired in 2015 as a Supervisory Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security after 32 years of federal service. She had oversight of the Human Trafficking Unit in Seattle serving as the primary trainer for law enforcement and service personnel in human trafficking in a four-state region.. Lynda has attended the Freedom Network USA both in her capacity as a Supervisory Special Agent and after retiring as a way to stay current on human trafficking. She has also obtained her certification to teach the topic of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children conferred by the State of Washington.



Lynda Buehring

Lynda is also certified to teach the iEmpathize program to youth 12 and up that serves to keep young people from being trafficked. She is the Training Director for Hope Unlimited (hopeunl.org) focusing on outreach, prevention and education for youth.

(Continued on Page 2)

Human Trafficking

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Norma Mouton received her Ph.D. from the University of Houston in 2009. She then worked as a lecturer at Sam Houston State University from 2009 through 2011 and moved to Camano Island in 2012.

She is the past president of the Stanwood-Camano Branch of the American Association of University Women. In that capacity she initiated a focus on human trafficking.

As Administrative Director of the Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative under the auspices of Hope Unlimited (Hopeunl.org) Norma has attended two national conferences on human trafficking. She is a member of the Snohomish County Task Force on human trafficking and she is certified to teach on the topic of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children by the State of Washington. She is also certified to teach the iEmpathize program to youth 12 and up as a method for preventing children's involvement in human trafficking.



Dr. Norma Mouton

The second half of this presentation will be given in April.

From Allied Universal Security Services

Every year in the United States, thousands of human trafficking cases are reported, but many more go unnoticed. Many people are not aware, but there are actually three different types of human trafficking:

- 1. Sex trafficking - victims are manipulated and forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money***
- 2. Forced labor - victims work for little or no pay through force, fraud or coercion***
- 3. Domestic servitude - victims are hidden in plain sight and are forced to work in homes often as nannies, maids or domestic help***

Invite a friend to join us on Zoom for the Saturday meeting. Then, send his/her email address to Judi Edwards, who will send the Zoom link.

March is Women's History Month

Help Whatcom AAUW make history:

We offer scholarships and support 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



Happy March Birthday!

Setsuko Buckley 3rd

Karen Gantenbein 14th

Jean Cox-Treverton 18th

2021 Festival--Almost Like Being There!

CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival will be online again this year **May 13 through 22**. A complete line-up of films officially selected will be announced in early April. Festival passes will go on sale May 1.

Support CASCADIA to Support Women Filmmakers

You can help CASCADIA continue to showcase the work of women directors and bring special screenings as well as the films in our festival by contributing \$100 or more to the festival to become a 'member' of the Centennial Circle. If \$100 isn't possible, CASCADIA appreciates any amount that's good for you.

Cheryl Crooks, Executive Director

What's next for our High School Scholars program?

It is unclear, at this point, whether or not we will be able to present our High School Scholars public awards program this spring, due to continuing social distancing requirements.

However, space is reserved for Saturday, May 8, at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club, 10AM to Noon, in case it is possible. It is also unclear how many scholars we will have this year, due to the break in on-site learning.

IMPORTANT

In the event we can present the public program we will need:

- volunteers to greet scholars and families when they arrive
- volunteers to staff the refreshment table and keep refreshments resupplied
- volunteers to help set up the Country Club space before the event
- volunteers to be general help during the event

Branch members who will attend the event are requested to provide finger food, lemonade and coffee/tea. Additional information will be forthcoming closer to May 8.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS, please contact Kathy Jenkis, 443-404-1613, or k.jenkis@hotmail.com. Let her know in what capacity you will be able to volunteer.

Thank you, in advance, from the High School Scholars Committee.

Whatcom Branch Executive Board holds the line on dues increase, moves annual business meeting to April

At the February 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.

Nominations for officers

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 consider filling an office, perhaps with a co-leader, please contact Catherine Chambers, Co-President at 360-920-5385, or Susan Moen, (360) 778-2510

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.

Membership Matters



Note to all members: Please check the membership list I sent to you recently. If you are not on the list you may have not paid dues for 20-21, or we have not yet posted them. Please contact me or our treasurer Judith Paulson: paulsonfinancial@pogozone.net

You could also be a pending new member and will pay dues for 21-22.

If you are on the list and some information is incorrect please update the national membership database or email your correct information to me at: jedwards@syscongrp.com

Dues for 21-22 will be due by June 1, 2021. Watch the April newsletter for more information.

Thank you! Judi Edwards, CCP, MBA

March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to American history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987.

Women's History Month is a reminder to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. On the national level, Abigail Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks are names on the timeline that stretches back to the founding of the United States.

In Washington State, notable women include the first two women elected to serve in the Washington state legislature (in 1912): **Frances C. Axtell from Bellingham** and Nena J. Croake from Tacoma. In 1965, Marjorie Pitter King was the first African American woman serve as a Washington State legislator. In 1977, marine biologist Dixie Lee Ray became the state's first female governor. The still-serving Patty Murray was the first female US Senator from Washington, first seated in 1992.

And let us not forget other local celebrities: **Phoebe Goodell Judson** (October 25, 1831 – January 16, 1926) known as "The Mother of Lynden," and **Hilary Swank**, an actress who grew up in Bellingham, moved to Los Angeles, and won two Best Actress Oscars.

The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. The idea caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women, took place for the first time on March 8, 1911. Many countries around the world celebrate the holiday with demonstrations, educational initiatives and customs such as presenting women with gifts and flowers.

The United Nations has sponsored International Women's Day since 1975. When adopting its resolution on the observance of International Women's Day, the United Nations General Assembly cited the following reasons: "To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security."

Notes from the February meeting

A morning devoted to art, poetry and conversation - what could be better?

That was our Whatcom Branch general meeting in February. Our own Setsuko Buckley shared her Haiku, plus that of other poets. We learned that her Bellingham Haiku Group is getting ready to publish a poetry anthology.

Also, local poet Linda Conroy made her second visit to our branch, reading three of her new poems.

A handout emailed to members let us follow along as Linda read, and also contained a copy of the poem read at the Biden inauguration. Also sent were copies of the artworks entered by three of our members in the AAUW annual art contest. Voting closed on March 3, and we have not heard yet about the winners. Our entrants were Kay Davin, Susan Moen and Teizeen Mohamedali.

In other business, Renee Sherrer reported that Robin Lynn Kagan's glove drive was a success, with numerous pairs of gloves, mittens and hand warmers dropped off at her boutique and gallery, Social Fabric, to be delivered to the YWCA.



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