

**Meet our 2022 Tech Trek campers**  
 at the **September 10th** meeting  
 10 a.m. to noon  
 at Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room

Guest speaker will be Astrophysicist and radio show host Regina Barber, PhD. She received her doctorate in Physics from Washington State University in 2011, with a focus in Astrophysics, studying globular cluster systems. She not only teaches physics and astronomy at Western, but also is the first STEM Inclusion and Outreach Specialist at WWU. *(continued on page 2)*



Whatcom Branch

**Also in this issue:**

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Fall event calendar      | Page 7      |
| Summer picnic            | Page 3      |
| State AAUW news          | Pages 7 & 8 |
| Helping out in Guatemala | Page 5      |
| AAUW Book Club news      | Page 10     |



**Whatcom County Tech Trekkers: Back row, Rayana Jackson, Whatcom AAUW counselor Judy Fruhbauer, Arya Sabado and Chloe Skywalker. Front row, Mika Long, Emilxe Gonzalez, Lucia Carlson Prandini and Ari Warrior.**

## Physicist to speak at September meeting *(from page 1)*



In this role, Barber organizes programs to recruit and retain underrepresented faculty and students in STEM fields. She is also the Host and Executive Producer of the podcast *Spark Science*, featuring interviews with STEM professionals. For seven seasons, she has mentored a student production team in science communication and storytelling. Barber has spent the last decade combining racial and gender equity, science and pop culture into one career. In 2019, she won WWU's Womxn of Color Empowerment Faculty Award. She is also an alumna of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science Leadership Institute and a former Jackson Wild Media Lab Fellow.

*(Information drawn from WWU and NPR websites)*

**Branch President Judi Edwards** has been named head of the Washington State AAUW Special Projects Funds group. This is the group that oversees contributions to Tech Trek, as well as other projects.

## What a summer!

Of course I can't keep track of everyone in our AAUW branch, but I know there were many travelers. Also, we had some really fun branch events, not to mention too many surgeries.

So, here's a little catch-up:

**Carol Simmer** traveled to Switzerland, where she attended her son's wedding reception at a castle near Lake Geneva.

**Jean Cox-Treverton, Judith Entwife and I** all had shoulder replacement surgeries.

**Susan Moen** and several members of her family traveled to Guatemala to volunteer for a children's mission. *(See her account and photos on pages 5 & 6)*

**Candace Wellman** has been racing to finish her latest book.

**Judith Paulson** drove across country.

**Judy Fruhbauer** has kept busy as a volunteer with a group providing horses for therapy, and also was a counselor at Tech Trek camp.

**Kay Davin** went to New York for her sister's birthday.

Our **June picnic** honored our members for their work on behalf of the branch. New officers were installed, also. *(See page ....)*

About 20 people turned out for a June **happy hour at SpringHill suites**, including some new faces.

**See page 4 for some dates to save for fall.**

*Gwen Parker,  
Newsletter editor (and sometime gossip columnist)*

## Fairhaven Park Pavilion is Picnic Perfect

For some reason, the Whatcom AAUW Board members were not aware of how awesome the meeting space is at Fairhaven Park. We have a new favorite spot now — a wood-paneled room that can seat 50 people, with a kitchen and restrooms, surrounded by lovely greenery.

We lucked into excellent weather for our June picnic, and Program Chair Uzma Ahmad arranged for a delicious meal. Let’s just say we were happy campers!

Many of our members were honored for so generously giving their time and talents to Branch projects such as Tech Trek, High School Scholars, just to name a few. (See letter, page 4.)

Our officers for the coming year were installed. Voted in by acclamation at the April general meeting were Co - Vice Presidents for Membership Lynda Buehring and Sandra Hays, Treasurer Kathy Cole and Secretary Jean Cox-Treverton. Jean continues in her position, as do President Judi Edwards and Program Vice President Uzma Ahmad.

Retiring officers include Judith Paulson, Treasurer; Kimberly Butts and Setsuko Buckley, Co-Vice Presidents for Membership.

Thanks to these officers, old and new, for their service!



**Delightful surprise:** Esther Golde reacts to an unexpected gift and recognition for her tireless service on several Branch projects.



**Clockwise from left, Branch Officers Kathy Cole, Jean Cox-Treverton, Uzma Ahmad, Lynda Buehring, Sandy Hays and Judi Edwards.**



June 2022

Dear Members of AAUW Whatcom Branch,

**“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass.  
It’s about learning how to dance in the rain.”**

*Author Vivian Green*

AAUW Whatcom Board members are grateful for your contributions in success of the branch. It hasn't been an easy two years, and yet – you joyfully showed commitment to the noble mission of AAUW, in advancing women’s status throughout the pandemic.

We are proud to share with you that over several years, our Branch has provided \$12,600 in scholarships- to Western Washington University (WWU), Whatcom Community College (WCC), Bellingham Technical College and Northwest Indian College. In addition, we have provided \$3,000 to other educational sponsorships, WCC’s Girls Go Tech and AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. We also stepped up to contribute towards child care need of an international student at WWU so the mother can fulfill her dream of higher education. We also contribute towards the food pantries of local colleges.

We have provided scholarships for 46 seventh grade girls to go to Tech Trek science camp for a week. Money raised for camper scholarships since 2013 amounts to \$43,000.

Our High School Scholars Program has honored over 40 Junior girls a year for being the best in their high school STEM fields. We are pleased to share that now we have extended our program to all the Whatcom County High Schools.

We worked to provide many stimulating ZOOM meetings with great speakers for the last two years. Fortunately, we have mostly stayed healthy and carefully taken care of ourselves and our families.

Thank you for your part in all of the above mentioned success stories by paying your dues, staying connected, being involved in the meetings and/or for committing to work on projects. We are most appreciative of your continued support and wish you all the best. Looking forward to many meaningful mission projects and continued friendships.

We can say with joy, we have **“BEEN DANCING IN THE RAIN.”**

With warm regards,

Whatcom AAUW Board

## A volunteering adventure in Guatemala

by Susan Moen

In June, my daughter's family and I flew to Antigua, Guatemala to participate for two weeks with God's Child Project. I want to thank the very generous AAUW members for their donations of needed supplies and of gifts of money. Each family member flew with an extra suitcase filled with medical supplies, vitamins, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and children's clothing (as can be seen on the table at the Casa Jackson Hospital for Malnourished Children.)

We spent our first week building the Blue House with a cement floor for a family who had applied for the help. The families need to own their own land. Many different groups come to help build each house: the project had four different houses being built while we were there. Each group supplies the money for the materials and then the labor to build the house under the direction of the master builders provided by the Project. There were several groups of teenagers and leaders from Pennsylvania who come every year.

We stayed at a host family's home and our host prepared the local foods for our dinners.

*(continued on page 6)*



**At left, Sonia, Sara, Susan, Greg and Julia with owners of new Blue House.**

**Above, Sonia and Julia lay the house foundation.**



***Fine feathers: A potential University of Oregon Duck?***

## Have you met Meetup?

Meetup is a popular way to go online and find out about events happening in your area. Whatcom AAUW is now using it to advertise our events, in hopes of drawing in potential members.

It is also an easy way for current members to RSVP.

The board encourages you type Meetup into your browser, and just check out how it works — it is really simple to use.

AAUW Whatcom Meetup page:  
<https://www.meetup.com/american-association-of-women-whatcom-branch/>

## Guatemala trip

*(continued from page 5)*

We helped at the hospital for the second week. We were all diapering, bathing, feeding, and playing with the children. There were 27 children in the hospital and 23 mothers were there, too, to learn. We helped entertain the children while the mothers went to classes about nutrition, making good choices, etc. The average stay is two to three months for each child.

I was delighted that two of my granddaughters were able to participate with hands on to help others who are less fortunate. Thanks to your donations of money, I purchased six clean water filters to be given to families. I was delighted to be included by my family. This moving experience was rich in good feelings and great memories.

Look up [GodsChild.org](http://GodsChild.org) if you are interested in supporting these projects.

## 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](http://www.aauw-wa.org)

**Calendar of coming events**

**Sept. 10** General meeting at Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room, 10 a.m. Recognizing 2022 Tech Trek participants from Whatcom County. Speaker: Physicist Regina Barber, PhD.

**Sept. 22** AAUW Book Club, noon at Affinity Apartments dining room. Book is *The Lincoln Highway*.

**Sept. 24** Branch board meeting, 9 a.m.

**Sept. 28** Happy hour “soiree” at SpringHill Suites, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Bring a friend!

**Oct. 8** General meeting at Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room, 10 a.m. Celebrating Indigenous Peoples’ Day with Alaskan author Annie Boochever, discussing her book, *Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich*.

**Nov. 12** *Fingers crossed!* Our much-postponed Vintage Tea and Fashion Show is back on! 1:30-4:00PM  
Bellingham Golf and Country Club  
More info in our next newsletter.



**Items of interest from Washington State AAUW**

**AAUW-WA thanked 14 retiring Washington State Legislators for their Public Service and for Scoring 100% on AAUW WA Legislator Scorecard in both 2021 and 2022. Among them was**

- *Rep. Sharon Shewmake, D-Bellingham (LD 42)\* running for LD42 Senate*

Many Branches are gearing up for the general election in November and the State Public Policy Team is ready to help.

State AAUW created a [2022 AAUW-WA Issues Candidate Comparison template](#) you can use to review your candidates' positions on key AAUW-WA policy issues.

Check out our [AAUW Publications](#) webpage to find links to related AAUW studies and reports.

You are invited to join your AAUW-WA Communications Team on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a Communications Forum focusing on strategies and ideas for improving communication within, and among AAUW members and/or branches. If you are interested, please send your name and any additional topic ideas to Judy Peasley at [communications@aauw-wa.org](mailto:communications@aauw-wa.org). *If you provided your name in the chat during our Summer Leadership Meeting, you are already on our list.*





Attending the WWU Scholarship Recognition dinner earlier this summer were Carol Simmer, our Academic Committee Chair; AAUW Scholarship recipient Courtney Yoshiyama, and Gerry Prody, Chemistry Professor at WWU, now retired, who was our AAUW College Liaison for several years.

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Registration is open for the Fall Webinar Series.



Again this year, Washington State AAUW is offering a series of webinars. The full-series price is \$50 members/\$60-non-members and an individual webinar price is \$15/\$20. Here's the link to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-wa-fall-webinar-series-tickets-401674127127>





**July**

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Helene Berg-Kolin | 2  |
| Carol Simmer      | 3  |
| Catherine Oberg   | 26 |

**August**

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Esther Golde   | 3  |
| Mialee Jose    | 5  |
| Elsie Heinrick | 15 |
| Pam Sankey     | 24 |

**September**

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Margo Hammond      | 3  |
| Catherine Chambers | 4  |
| Carolyn Kinne      | 16 |
| Candace Wellman    | 18 |
| George Edwards     | 20 |
| Kathy Sabel        | 20 |
| Jeanne Bowes       | 22 |
| Michelle Kopcha    | 29 |

***These birthday wishes are belated for many, but warm, nonetheless!***

***New members***

A warm welcome to Carolyn Kinne and Shirley Kelley! Shirley has been with us since the spring, and Carolyn is new this month.

***This is what we do!!***

AAUW has announced over \$6 MILLION in funding to more than 320 fellows and grantees in the 2022-23 year!

These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls. A list of recipients can be found on the AAUW national website.

**College Pantry time again!**

Let's replenish our pantry basket at the meeting Sept. 10. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items, or a check, to help supply the free pantries at our local colleges.



## AAUW Book Club news

As our book club gets reestablished after the pandemic, we are going to try a different meeting time. It will still be **the fourth Thursday of most months (with the November/December meetings combined to work around the holidays.)** Our new time will be noon. We hope this will accommodate people working during the day.

Contact Kay Davin for directions on how to get in the front door at Affinity.

The October book will be *The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towle.

**Attendees are asked to bring at least one, but no more than three, books to tout as potential reads for coming months,** so that we can develop our book list.



### ***Spread some sunshine!***

Do you know an AAUW member who is ailing or has suffered a loss? If so, please email our Sunshine Lady, Suzanne Thorp, who will mail a card from our branch.  
[sthorp5@comcast.net](mailto:sthorp5@comcast.net)

#### **IT Specialist**

**Judi Edwards**

**360-303-0487**

[jedwards@syscongrp.com](mailto:jedwards@syscongrp.com)

## Bellingham Branch AAUW

P.O. Box 29862 Bellingham, WA 98228

[www.aauw-wa.org](http://www.aauw-wa.org)

### **Executive Board 2022-23**

#### **President**

**Judi Edwards**

**360-303-0487**

[jedwards@syscongrp.com](mailto:jedwards@syscongrp.com)

#### **Treasurer**

**Kathy Cole**

[zippitydodakc2020@outlook.com](mailto:zippitydodakc2020@outlook.com)

#### **Program Vice President**

**Uzma Ahmad**

[ustar@comcast.net](mailto:ustar@comcast.net)

#### **Membership Co-Chairs**

**Lynda Buehring**

[goldracket@aol.com](mailto:goldracket@aol.com)

**Sandy Hays**

[sanhaydaisy@gmail.com](mailto:sanhaydaisy@gmail.com)

#### **Secretary**

**Jean Cox-Treverton**

**360-392-0043**

[jeancoxtreverton@ymail.com](mailto:jeancoxtreverton@ymail.com)

#### **Newsletter**

**Gwen Parker**

**360-933-4314**

[parker.gwen@comcast.net](mailto:parker.gwen@comcast.net)