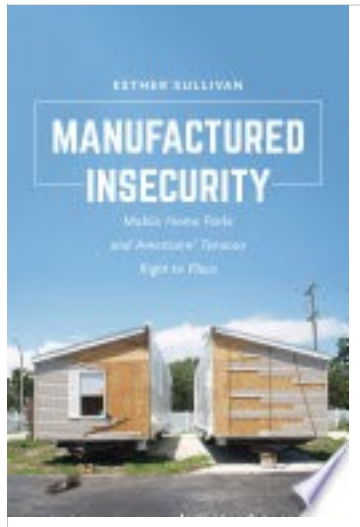


**Mobile home parks and housing insecurity are topics for March 11th meeting**



**10 a.m. to noon**

**Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room**

There is a reason why there are 40 housing-related bills currently in review in the Washington State Legislature, five of which are mobile home-related.

Affordable housing and the diversity of housing are issues locally, statewide and nationally. Author and scholar **Esther Sullivan** will be guest speaker (via Zoom) at the March meeting. Sullivan’s book, *Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place*, will be a basis for discussing financial issues at mobile home parks. Her book won the 2019 Robert Park Award from the American Sociological Association. She is a professor at University of Colorado, Denver. *Manufactured Insecurity* examines the social, legal, geospatial and market forces that intersect to create housing insecurity for an entire class of low-income residents in U.S. manufactured home parks. The book draws on two years of ethnographic data collected inside closing manufactured home communities before, during and after community-wide evictions.

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*Ms. Sullivan writes, “I was an AAUW grant recipient (both a local Texas chapter and the national dissertation grant) and that funding was foundational to allowing me to move into mobile home communities and conduct ethnographic research inside them over two years, laying the foundation for my book and all my mobile home research since. I am so grateful to AAUW.”*

There are many factors underlying housing affordability. Increased house prices are driven by a mismatch of supply and demand. Incomes have not kept pace with the cost of housing in our community, making home ownership and renting unaffordable for many.

The City of Bellingham is implementing innovative actions to address housing and housing affordability within the community. Preserving existing affordable housing is a way to ensure this continued housing option and maintain a diverse housing selection.

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- Nominations for Branch officers....Page 2**
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**Ingeborg Paulus** passed away Monday, February 27, at the age of 93 years. An Honorary Lifetime Member of American Association of University Women, Inge was active in the Bellingham/Whatcom Branch until last year. Inge was born in Germany and emigrated to Canada in the early 1950s. She settled in Vancouver where she had family. Inge completed her education at University of British Columbia, attaining a PhD in Sociology. After moving to Bellingham, she had a position at Western Washington University as a Sociology professor until retirement. During this time she had her Morey Avenue home built. Inge also was a longtime member of Bellingham Whatcom League of Women Voters, as well as book clubs. Inge was predeceased by her husband Dr. Roy Potter. Inge is survived by many nieces and nephews.

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## Nominations announced for April elections

Elections for Whatcom Branch Executive Board positions will be held at the April meeting.

The final proposed 2023/2024 slate of Board nominations:

- Co-Presidents: Judi Edwards and Uzma Ahmad
- Program Committee: Susan Moen, Cathie Oberg, Carolyn Kinne, Margo Hammond
- Secretary: Margo Hammond

More nominations may be made from the floor, if the person has previously agreed to be nominated.



## Wired for Connection

by Gwen Parker

### “Vive La Vagus!”

and no, we have not forgotten how to spell, nor are we talking about the Nevada vacation destination. “Vive La Vagus” is the new mantra for those AAUW members who heard February speaker Christie Scollon, Associate Professor of Psychology and Honors Faculty Fellow at Western Washington University. Her talk explored the neurophysiological underpinnings of social engagement, including some overlooked sources of connection.

Christie recounted some fun and fascinating research studies, including one in which the researcher injected his victims -er, *volunteers*, with a cold germ. He then divided the study participants into two groups: half were asked to stay somewhat isolated in their hotel rooms for the duration of the study, and try not to interact very much with other people. The other half were asked to socialize with as many people as possible. The upshot: the socializers had fewer cold symptoms. (Measurements included weighing used facial tissues!)

But to get to the core of the matter: research shows that social interaction boosts one’s immunity, by stimulating the vagus nerve system. Hugging your friends and family, joking with strangers in the grocery checkout line, and even going out for a hike, all increase our sense of connection to other people and to the planet. So, Happy and Healthy really do go together.

Thanks, Christie, for a delightful dig into science!



**Photos with our guests: Uzma Ahmad, left, gets in for a group picture with Professor Christie Scollon and her son Owen, along with Gwen Parker and Jean Cox-Treverton.**



**Prof. Christie Scollon with Uzma’s husband, WWU President Sabah Randhawa,**

## New Member corner

**Our Membership Vice Presidents, Lynda Buehring and Sandy Hays, are requesting our newer members to write a little bit about themselves, to help us get to know them. We will feature one or two new members in each monthly newsletter. —Welcome!**

### ***Jenny Al-Shafie***

I was born in Chicago to parents who immigrated from Lithuania after WWII. I lived in Chicago until I went away to Southern Illinois University where I received a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare with a minor in Psychology. I relocated to San Diego in my 20s where my husband and I met.

I worked for a total of 24 years at two different community colleges as an Academic Department Assistant.

We raised two children and once they finished university they moved far from our home. My son moved to northern California. My daughter married and moved to the Seattle area. She had our first grandson during the pandemic. We saw very little of him the first year of his life, so we decided we had to be closer to her and her family. After 44 years in southern California we moved to Camano Island in 2021. We now have two grandsons and see them every week. We love it here and I am glad she picked this area to live.

Since I am new to the area, I was interested in joining an organization that did worthwhile things for the community and had interesting activities.



### ***Linda Lynn***

I was born in Palo Alto, CA to adventurous parents who moved around a lot in the early years of their marriage; we lived in several different California cities and Guam before my parents moved us to Seattle in the mid-50s. I was the oldest of five children, and grew up in Seattle and graduated from Roosevelt High School. I went to work for Boeing, and then left to travel and landed in Boise, ID, with a job at Boise Cascade, where I worked for 35 years. I took advantage of their education reimbursement program and attended Boise State University part time for many years, earning a BS in Human Resources, and getting promoted to application developer for financial and HR systems. In 2006, my husband and I moved to some property we owned on Camano Island and lived in a 5th wheel trailer while we built the house in which I still live. I returned to Boeing and was hired as a Systems Engineer. During those Boeing years I spent so much time commuting that I did not become very involved in the community. I retired in 2016 and wanted to become more active in local activities. I knew about AAUW because a lot of my Boise friends belonged, so I joined the Stanwood Camano Island branch in 2017, where I am still a member.



## New Member corner

(Continued from page 4)



### Back by popular demand

Another social and painting party is set for 5:30 pm, March 23, at Creativitea, 1312 11th Street in Fairhaven.

Please sign up on the Meetup website.

Contact Membership Co-chair Sandy Hays for more information:  
[sanhaydaisy@gmail.com](mailto:sanhaydaisy@gmail.com)

### Welcome to a new member!

Our newest member is **Anne Mosness** of Bellingham. She is a WWU graduate, and found AAUW through a Meetup event. We are happy to have you aboard!

### *Welcome to AAUW*

Whatcom Branch of American Association of University Women invites you to join us.

Membership is open to college graduates and those with associate degrees from accredited schools. We offer speakers and various interest groups.

Our mission is to offer scholarships and support numerous programs to help women and girls gain equity in all areas of life.

Contact Lynda Buehring, [goldracket@aol.com](mailto:goldracket@aol.com)  
 or Sandy Hays, [sanhaydaisy@gmail.com](mailto:sanhaydaisy@gmail.com)

### To all our members:

Please don't forget that we will be accepting donations for the food pantries at our four local colleges, at the March meeting.. Cash, non-perishable food items and toiletries are all welcome.

Chris (BTC coordinator) and Connor (student liaison) told us they are so grateful to AAUW for our continual support. Their Food Pantry is a lifeline for many students. Personal products are items they cannot get with their food stamps. There is always a need for these items.

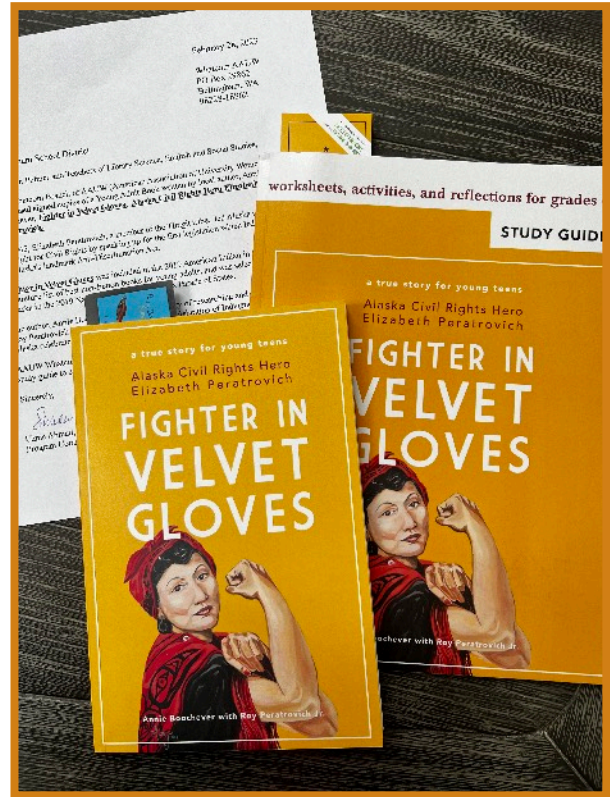
We donated \$90.00 and 220 pounds of food this February!

## Whatcom AAUW presents book on Civil Rights to local schools

After hearing a talk by Annie Boochever about her book, *Fighter In Velvet Gloves: Alaska Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich*, Whatcom AAUW purchased 20 books and 20 workbooks from the author to be donated to Whatcom County middle schools and high schools. Annie, who wrote the book with Roy Peratrovich, Jr., signed all the books and Gwen Parker customized a bookplate for each copy, stating that these books were donated by our branch..

Susan Moen and her crew (Uzma Ahmad, Pam Sankey and Carolyn Kinne) packaged all the copies and hand delivered some of them to local schools, and mailed the rest to the librarians of the other schools. We donated to 13 middle schools in the county and six high schools. Susan will also deliver one to Northwest Indian College for their library.

Susan spoke to the Principal of Whatcom Middle School who will use the book to prepare a “Woman of History” lesson, and who said she was delighted to receive this donation.



## Public Policy corner

Our Branch’s Public Policy chair, Catherine Chambers, had a letter to the editor published in the March 5 Bellingham Herald, regarding Title IX and what it includes. She also addressed the handling of a recent charge against three Bellingham School District employees of not reporting instances of sexual harassment.

Catherine was recognized by the State AAUW when this letter ran in another newspaper recently.

Celebrating  
March Birthdays!

Kathryn Tomas	2nd
Setsuko Buckley	3rd
Mary Velasco	9th
Karen Gantenbein	14th
Jean Cox-Treverton	18th

**AAUW Book Club choices for 2023 - Come join us for a good discussion****March**

*The Liar's Dictionary: A Novel*, by Eley Williams

269pp/ Fiction

An improbably enchanting, rollicking novel about two generations of put-upon London lexicographers, *The Liar's Dictionary* is positively intoxicated with the joy and wonder of language, both authentic and, often hilariously, counterfeit.

**April**

*Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*, by Caroline Perez 318 pages/NF

This book shows us how, in a world largely built for and by men, we are systematically ignoring half the population. It exposes the gender data gap.

**May**

*Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks

413 pp/Historical fiction

"Every character is carefully and believably explored, including Lexington, the horse, whose closest relationship is with his enslaved caretaker Brooks also reveals a lot about racing art and biological science. Best horse book I've ever read, including all of my own."—Jane Smiley, *The New York Times Book Review*

**June**

*Underland, a Deep Time Journey*, by Robert McFarlane

495pp/NF

An exploration of the world beneath our feet. *New York Times* "100 Notable Books of the Year" • *Guardian* "100 Best Books of the 21st Century" • Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award

**July**

*Exit West*, by Mohsin Hamid

231 pp/Fiction

A can't-put-it-down story, as its characters react to the uncertainty of a contemporary city experiencing escalating violence. 10 Best Books of 2017, *The New York Times Book Review*  
Finalist for the 2017 Man Booker Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Awards

**August**

*Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, by Suzanne Simard 368pp/NF

"Simard brilliantly illuminates the fascinating and vital truths--that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life; that forests are social, cooperative creatures connected through underground networks by which trees communicate their vitality and vulnerabilities with communal lives not that different from our own.

**September**

*Lessons in Chemistry*, Bonnie Garmus

394pp/Fiction

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller and Goodreads award winner. Meet Elizabeth Zott: a scientist in 1960s California whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show.

**October**

*Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, by Joan Didion

256pp/NF essays

Didion's first work of nonfiction, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, is considered a watershed moment in American writing. First published in 1968, the collection was critically praised as some of the "best prose written in this country."

**November/December**

*The Lost Apothecary*, by Sarah Penner

352pp/Fiction

A poisonously good read... An enthralling work of mystery, murder, trust, and betrayal. Set in an atmospheric London.

**Calendar of coming events**

**March 11** General meeting at Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room, 104 Commercial St., 10 a.m.

**March 23** Painting party at Creativitea, 5:30 p.m. Please sign up on Meetup website

**March 23** AAUW Book Club, noon at Affinity Apartments Library. Book is *The Liar's Dictionary: A Novel*, by Eley Williams

**March 25** Exec Board meeting, 9 a.m. .via Zoom.



**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)

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