

## High School Scholars Awards Day

### ***Please join us for this celebration!***

We have 46 junior girls from Whatcom County high schools to honor this year. It is another extraordinary group of whom we are really proud.



**WHERE:** Ferndale Pioneer Pavilion, 2007 Cherry Street, Ferndale

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 13th, 11AM to 2PM

**WHAT WE NEED** on the 13th (anytime after 9:30AM)

- **2-3 dozen bites** (cookies, finger sandwiches, finger foods, fruit, etc.) from each of our members
- **help setting up** chairs and tables before the event and taking down after the event
- **volunteers to greet** our scholars and guests, volunteers to help with food presentation for our members, scholars and guests

**Thank you** in advance for your help recognizing our High School Scholars!

# AAUW

Whatcom Branch

**We are excited to have Dr. Melissa Rice as our guest speaker.** As Dr. Rice posted on her Twitter feed: *“Lives on Earth, takes pics on Mars.”*

She is a Professor of Planetary Science at Western Washington University, and is a longtime collaborator on NASA’s Mars explorations.

Dr. Rice has held a joint appointment in the Geology Department and the Physics & Astronomy Department since 2014.

She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Astronomy at Cornell University in 2012, and was a NASA Astrobiology Institute Postdoctoral fellow at Caltech from

2012-2014. Her research focuses on the sedimentology, stratigraphy and mineralogy of Mars.

She spoke to our branch several years ago, before a lot of the ongoing Mars exploration had happened.



**PLEASE NOTE:** We *will not* have a College Pantry collection basket at the May 13th meeting, but *will* have one at the June picnic. Thanks!

## Egusi Soup and Fufu

AAUW members and friends had a delicious Social Studies lesson at the April meeting, compliments of WWU graduate student Tawakalt Akinjobi. With an assist from Carol Simmer, Tawakalt served us two dishes from her home country of Nigeria: Egusi Soup and Fufu. Fufu looks like mashed potatoes, but is a mixture of water and yams. The Egusi soup (more like stew in consistency) is

much more complex, containing seeds from the Egusi melon, locust beans, meat such as beef or poultry, seafood such as shrimp or crayfish, greens and a variety of peppers. Served over the Fufu, it is spicy and filling.



Tawakalt also showed slides from her native country. She is from Lagos, the largest city in Nigeria. It is a major African financial center and the economic hub of Lagos State and Nigeria at large. The city has been described as the cultural, financial, and entertainment capital of Africa.

Nigeria has 36 states, Tawakalt told us, with English being the common language. There are more than 250 ethnic groups speaking 500 distinct languages. Tawakalt was originally from Ibadan, in Oyo State, where Yoruba is spoken.

If you look closely at the photo of Tawakalt's son, AbdurRahmann, you will see a bit of his shirt, which is made from Nigerian fabric. The country is known for its textiles. Tawakalt showed us photos from some of her family

### Tawakalt Akinjobi and Carol Simmer serve Egusi and Fufu

gatherings, which showcased the bright fabrics, flowing styles and unique headdresses.

Congratulations to Tawakalt, who will receive her Master's degree in Materials Chemistry in June. While studying for her degree, with a stipend from WWU, she also teaches chemistry to undergraduate students.

For the 2022 Winter quarter at WWU, Whatcom AAUW provided financial assistance to Tawakalt for child care, a much higher expense than expected when she arrived. As a "thank you" to us, she happily accepted the invitation to give a presentation for our April meeting.



**AbdurRahmann wants to use the camera!**



**Reminder: Community Food Co-op Shopping Day, July 15,**  
 Bellingham Downtown and Cordata stores.

**Whatcom AAUW is proud that our Tech Trek program is the recipient for the month of July, 2023, for proceeds of a Community Shopping Day!**

There are two ways to support our organization in July.

- 2% Saturday:** The Co-op donates 2% of total sales from this day to the selected recipient, in this case, Whatcom/Bellingham Branch Tech Trek.
- Donate the Difference: Round up your purchase at the register any day of July** and 100% of the donation is given directly to that Community Shopping Day recipient which again will be Whatcom/Bellingham Branch Tech Trek.

**Meet the 2023 Tech Trek Campers**

Tech Trek Campers have been selected for the 2023 Tech Trek Camp at Pacific Lutheran University, July 6-22. See full story on page 4.

## Meet the 2023 Tech Trek Campers

Whatcom AAUW's Tech Trek Campers have been selected for the 2023 Tech Trek Camp at Pacific Lutheran University, July 6 - 22. The Tech Trek Committee (Pam Sankey, Esther Golde, Judy Fruhbauer, Kathy Jenkis, Danette Keegan, Maggie Moore, Jean Cox-Treverton) has selected seven middle school girls for the STEM camp this year.

### **Campers for Tech Trek this year are:**

Gwen Brown, Sherlyn Montalvo and Brenda Sanchez from Fairhaven Middle School  
Lauren Alanis from Kulshan Middle School  
Leah Montano-Comacho from Shuksan Middle School  
Lucy Trowbridge and Tessa Cherry from Whatcom Middle School.

On Saturday, May 20, the Tech Trek Selection Committee will host a Meet and Greet when the new campers and their parents meet, learn more about the STEM camp and ask their questions in person.

AAUW members can meet the 2023 campers when they are introduced in person at the September 9, 2023 general meeting. The students and their families and guests will join us to talk about their Tech Trek Camp experiences.

*Remember to support Tech Trek through the Community Co-op in July!*

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## Officers elected at April meeting

Whatcom AAUW Branch Officers voted in by acclamation at the April general meeting were:

- Co-Presidents: Judi Edwards and Uzma Ahmad
- Secretary: Margo Hammond
- Program Committee Vice-President: Susan Moen

Assisting Susan on the Program Committee are Cathie Oberg, Carolyn Kinne, Margo Hammond and Gwen Parker

Officers will be installed at the June meeting.



## Our Interest Groups need some helping hands

Pre-pandemic, Whatcom AAUW had active groups of women in a movie group, an arts group and a book club. In earlier years, we had a dinner club, a walking group, a cooking group and more.

Right now, all that has been revived is our book club, even though there are members interested in several possibilities.

**So, what we need now are a few people willing to step up and organize a group.** It is not hard: it is just contacting those with the same interests you have, and arranging to get together. I have been doing this for the book club for years.

I am always willing to put announcements in the monthly newsletter. Again, pre-pandemic, we had a monthly column of interest club news.

We can also just circulate sign-up sheets at our monthly meetings for new groups or specific outings.

Questions? I'll be glad to help.  
*Gwen Parker, Newsletter Editor,*  
[parker.gwen@comcast.net](mailto:parker.gwen@comcast.net)



***Finally, flowers! AAUW member Uzma Ahmad was part of a group visiting the Skagit Valley tulip fields after they finally bloomed this spring. — We could have official interest groups doing this sort of outing! (See article at left.)***

Photo courtesy of Susan Moen



## A warm welcome to new and returning members!

Local author **Candace Wellman** has poked her head out into the world again, and rejoined AAUW, after finishing her latest book, *Man of Treacherous Charm* (out soon). It is some more local history: there were political rascals back in the 1800's, too!

Welcome also to **Elizabeth Haro, Michelle Harmeier and Marybeth Spector**, all of Bellingham, and **Claudia Vaughn** of Camano Island.

## Our budget and fundraising

The Budget Committee met and, using financial information from the last 12 months, developed the one year budget reported in this newsletter. Your board has not yet voted on this budget but will at the May Board Meeting on May 20 at 9 am. Please direct any questions, omissions, to me, Susan Moen, Carol Simmer or Kathy Cole.

It is clear that to continue doing what we love and to support our philanthropic work we need to raise some money. A Fundraising Committee is forming. Like membership, it will take all of us to develop and hold fun, mission based fundraising events to support our needs. Please let any board member know your ideas and desire to help in this effort. Remember, we do have a Square account for processing items for sale or for donations. So we are set to handle a tea with a silent auction or any other such event. Our savings reserve gives us the seed money we would need to get a project started; i.e. prepay for the venue, etc. So, we need project ideas and the teams to make them work.

Our very own Lynda Buehring is spearheading getting us setup as a 501c(3) to better enable larger donations. This effort will take a while. As a branch, we swung back and forth on becoming a 501c3 but never had a member who was able to carry the torch on this. A 501c3 has additional reporting requirements to the IRS. But, corporations and private donors are more willing to contribute to a 501c3 organization. Such monies will help support our High School Scholar program, various scholarships and anything else we do in the future.  
*Judi Edwards, CCP, MBA*

<b>AAUW Whatcom Category</b>	<b>Budget Draft 2023-2024 FY</b>
<b>Certificate of deposit Savings</b>	\$27,000.00 as of 4/3/23
<b>Revenue</b>	
Checking	\$1,400.00 as of 4/3/23
Dues 59 members	\$649.00 A dues increase might be in order
Donations	
Village Books Royalty	\$23.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,072.00</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$9,468.00 Needed for budget</b>
<b>TOTAL Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$13,612.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>General Meetings</b>	
	We can help offset this by asking for a voluntary
Mt Baker	\$300.00 donation
Speaker Fees	\$750.00
Refreshments	\$500.00
<b>Membership Devel</b>	
Meetup	\$200.00 For 2 six month periods
Printing	\$200.00
Thankyou Gifts	\$200.00 Volunteer thankyou
<b>High School Scholars</b>	
Venue Rental	\$500.00
Venue Insurance	\$75.00
Refreshments	\$75.00
Programs & Postage	\$150.00
Gifts	\$690.00
<b>TECH TREK</b>	
Sponsorships	\$1,500.00
Printing	\$200.00
other	\$200.00
<b>Annual Picnic</b>	
Venue	\$120.00
Site Insurance	\$75.00
Food	\$350.00

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**Operational Costs**

IRS 990	\$40.00
Square Fees	\$25.00
SOS Annual Report	\$20.00
AHT D&O Ins	\$200.00 Board member insurance
PO Box	\$194.00
Misc	\$76.00 Postage, paper, etc
501c3	\$750.00 one time fee
Officer Expenses	\$150.00 Seminars/ Annual State Meeting

**Donations**

Girls Go Tech (WCC)	\$500.00
Cascadia Films	\$500.00

**Scholarships**

WCC	\$1,000.00
NWIC	\$1,000.00
BTC	\$1,000.00

TOTAL	\$11,540.00
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## Circling around...



AAUW Whatcom received a letter last month from Linda McCarthy, CEO of Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood, who spoke at our January meeting.

In part, she said: “Thank you so much for your tax-deductible gift of \$300.00 to help fund our work.

“Your gift helps ensure that Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood health centers can continue to be there for patients who often have nowhere else to go for high-quality, affordable reproductive health care. Your gift will also help expand access to care through innovative health care delivery methods - like telemedicine - and provide quality sex education and information to people who need it.

“...Thank you for caring so much about the thousands of people we serve every year in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan Counties.”

### **State AAUW meeting**

Whatcom Branch President Judi Edwards and Co-Membership VP Lynda Buehring attended the AAUW State Meeting on April 15. Judi reports that Emily Hitchens will be the new Washington State AAUW president.

### **Applause for the Pantry**

Our College Pantry donations went to Northwest Indian College last month. The students expressed deep appreciation, especially for the non-food items they received.

### Recommended reading

AAUW Book Club discussed *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*, by Caroline Perez, at our April meeting.

I don't usually do this, but I have to give it a shout-out for being well worth reading. (It isn't as long as it looks: the last 100 pages are endnotes.)

The author doesn't slow us down with graphs, just packs in statistics and observations of women's lives around the world, and how they are overlooked when plans are being made. One example: When homes were being rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina, the all-male builders forgot to put in kitchens. Go figure.

Another example: More women are injured in car crashes because the vehicles aren't engineered to fit women, who are generally smaller than the “standard male” used for design purposes.

And medicine is even worse

I can just about guarantee you will be talking about this, once you have read it.

-Gwen Parker



Happy Birthday  
Judi Edwards  
(May 23rd)



**Cheryl Crooks**, Executive Director of Cascadia International Women's Film Festival, brought a few clips from the films to be shown at this year's festival, to the April general meeting. All of them looked truly awesome, which is a word I don't use lightly.

If you haven't already done so, please check out the festival website. If you can't make the main festival, May 4-7, some of the films will be available online from May 11 to 21.

All the films are directed by women.

**Whatcom AAUW is one of the festival sponsors** Women are gaining a bigger foothold in the film industry, as they produce amazing new work. We are fortunate to have Cascadia Film Festival in our community, where students can get a close-up look at more career paths.

## Did you know??

National AAUW has partnerships available for colleges and universities. All four Whatcom County institutions of higher learning have representatives - usually professors - that are members of our Whatcom Branch.

This is one way we keep communications happening. Also, local college students can be AAUW members.

### *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  
or Sandy Hays, sanhaydaisy@gmail.com

**Calendar of coming events**

**May 13** High School Scholars Recognition Event, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at **Ferndale Pioneer Pavilion, 2007 Cherry Street, Ferndale**

**May 25** AAUW Book Club, 12:30 p.m. at Affinity Apartments Library. Book is *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks 413 pp/Historical fiction

**May 20** Tech Trek Selection Committee will host a Meet and Greet for the new campers and their parents.

**May 27** Executive 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)

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