



**This is a good year to  
Talk Politics!**

**AAUW meeting Jan. 13  
10 a.m. at Mount Baker Theatre**

AAUW may be non-partisan, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't talk about what is best for our state and our nation.

Each year, AAUW-WA hosts Lobby Day, a workshop where our state AAUW Public Policy team brings AAUW members together to explain priorities, host several speakers and explain how our lobbying efforts work.

This year, Lobby Day is January 22, and our Jan. 13 meeting will be centered around that, with coffee and legislative conversation. Catherine Chambers is our Public Policy Chair and will lead the event.

***Bring a pen, because we will be writing postcards to send to our legislators in Olympia.***

**Members whose last names begin with A through L are asked to bring a small plate of finger foods to go with our discussion.** Coffee will be provided.

If you can, please remember items or cash for the **College Pantry!**

**We will have to wrap up at 11:30**, to make room for vendors setting up for the Wedding Expo.

**2024 Legislative Tracking**

You can sign up now on the AAUW Web site for "This Week in Olympia," our 2024 legislative updates.

You'll receive information from AAUW's legislative consultant Nancy Sapiro, news from our Public Policy Team, Action Alerts, and more.

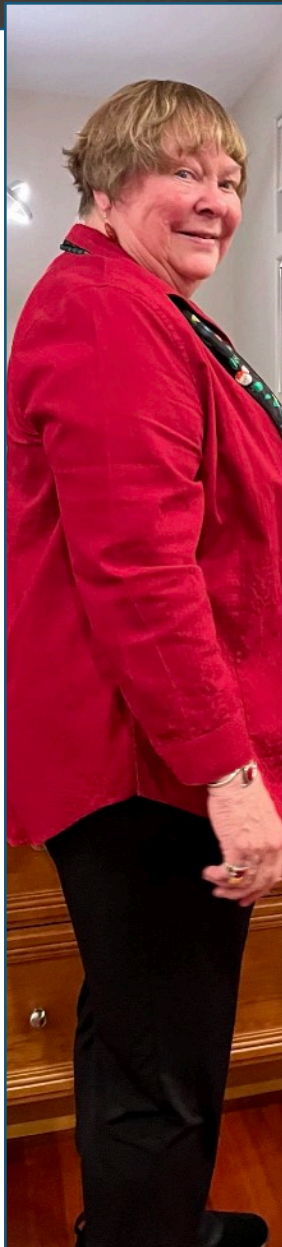
The 2024 Legislative Session is a short one, only two months long, and starts Monday, January 8.



Whatcom Branch

**Also in this issue:**

**Photos from our December party  
AAUW in Hawaii  
College Pantry**



**Evidently everyone got the memo!** Red, white and black were the colors of the day for the holiday celebration. Clockwise from upper left, Kathi Jenkis, Diane Norman, Susan Moen, Wendy Bell, Maggie Moore, Carol Simmer, Carolyn Kinne and Cathie Oberg.



**Fun, food and friendship: Clockwise from upper left, Dr. Ying Bao and her husband, Dr. Reid Dorsey-Palmateer; Catherine Chambers and George Edwards; Sue McDonald; Hostess Uzma Ahmad and one of our favorite guest speakers, Dr. Melissa Rice, and Jean Cox-Treverton. *More about the evening, Pg. 4.***

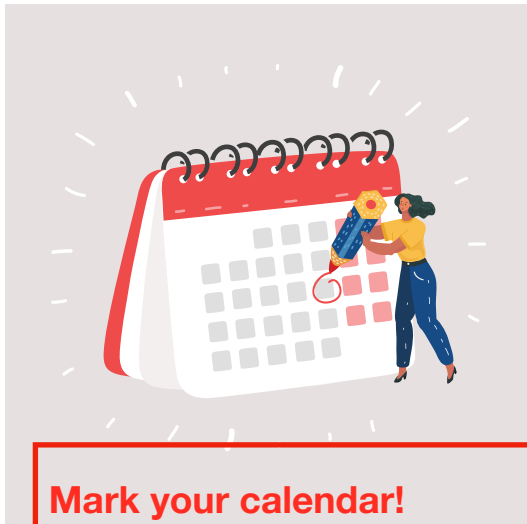
### After-party special mentions

Many thanks to Uzma and Sabah for opening their beautiful home for our holiday celebration!

Also, thanks to all the party planners: Uzma Ahmad, Carolyn Kinne, Margo Hammond, Cathy Oberg and Susan Moen. The event was lively, the food delicious and everything went as smoothly as silk!

We were all pleased to have our WWU liaison, Dr. Ying Bao, and her husband Reid in attendance, as well as past speakers, Planetary Scientist Dr. Melissa Rice and Psychologist Dr. Christie Scollon. We also got to know guests brought by our members.

Last, but not least, it was good to see Sue McDonald. She was one of the “movers and shakers” in re-energizing our branch when it was faltering a few years ago.



### Mark your calendar!

#### January

**Jan. 13**      **General Meeting** at Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room, 10 a.m.

**Jan. 25**      **AAUW Book Club**, 12:30 p.m. at Affinity Apartments Library. Book is *The Night Watchman* - Pulitzer Prize Winning Fiction by Louise Erdrich. (434 pp)

**Jan. 22**      **Lobby Day online event.** Meet others from across the state and talk directly with lobbyists and office holders.

**Jan. 27**      **Executive Board meeting**, 9 a.m.– via Zoom. All members are welcome. Contact Judi Edwards for a Zoom link.

#### February

**Feb 19**      **10 a.m. General meeting** at Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room

**Feb 24**      **Executive Board meeting**, 9 a.m.– via Zoom.

### Happy Birthday to You!

#### January

Pat Banasky	9th
Sally Ann Zoller	10th
Mary LeDonne	19th
Judith Entwife	28th



## AAUW members - out and about

Margo Hammond joined Barb Craig at an AAUW Maui branch fundraiser for college scholarships.

They brought some Bellingham Bay coffee and a Salish design towel for the branch's silent auction.

The restaurant, Flatbread Company, gave a portion of all pizza sales to the Maui branch for University of Hawai'i Maui College scholarships.



Wishing all our members  
Peace, Joy  
and a renewed sense of purpose  
in this New Year.

## AAUW Book Club wants more readers!

*We are still looking for more folks who like to read.*

Our January book is *The Night Watchman* - Pulitzer Prize Winning fiction by Louise Erdrich. (434 pp)

This month, we will be choosing books for next year: get in on the fun with your suggestions! You can email me with ideas (see below.)

See the details in the calendar on this page. Affinity Apartments are at 3930 Affinity Lane, just off Telegraph Road, across from Home Depot. Use the keypad by the front door to have Kay Davin buzz you in.

Questions? Gwen Parker,  
360-933-4314 or  
parker.gwen@comcast.net

## Opinions...

I think it is worth sharing that several people, over the last couple months, have said to me how much they appreciate our Co-presidents, Uzma Ahmad and Judi Edwards.

Both women are doing remarkable work for our AAUW branch. Uzma has brought us several memorable speakers, and is great at working on special events. Judi keeps us in touch with what is going on at the state AAUW level, keeps up our Web site, wrangles audio/visual devices at meetings, and is a steady hand on the tiller.

**...a round of applause, please!**

—Gwen Parker, newsletter editor

## 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



### 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

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### Executive Board 2023-24

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