



Bellingham Police Chief Rebecca Mertzig

Bring a friend!

**Bellingham Police Chief
Rebecca Mertzig to speak
at April 13 meeting, 10 a.m.**

at Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room

I am particularly pleased to announce that our April speaker will be someone whose family I have known since before her parents even met. In the late 1960's, her paternal grandparents ran a little gas station and diner somewhere at the end of Sunset Drive, where it heads toward Mt. Baker. Things have changed so much over the years that I am not sure I could even pinpoint the exact spot.

Chief Rebecca Mertzig grew up in Whatcom County, and began her career with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office in 2004. She reached the rank of Lieutenant in 2020. Her experiences include patrol, special investigations, school resource officer, civil disturbance unit, Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) TAC Officer, honor guard, peer



support, and first level and middle management.

She both served and supervised the Office of Neighborhoods which is a co-response unit pairing deputies with social workers to encourage engagement in services. She served as the Police Chief for the City of Stanwood. Chief Mertzig has 18 years of law enforcement experience and was named Deputy of the Year in 2010.

Chief Mertzig has her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Eastern Washington University, and extensive training in the martial arts.

Members whose last names begin with A through L are asked to bring treats to go with coffee, which will be provided.

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Whatcom Branch business —survey coming soon

By Judi Edwards, Branch Co-President

Attendance at the March business meeting was pretty sparse. We seem to be suffering post pandemic social fall out.

In that vein the board is composing a series of questions in the form of a survey to the membership. Your board needs to understand what we can do/ change to better meet your social and intellectual expectations from your branch. This survey will be from Survey Monkey in the next 10 days.

We have about 50 members on the books with fewer than 20 attending our general meetings. A committee of folks may help with the important duties of membership. Recruiting new members is one thing, retaining and engaging them another.

We still need a membership chair. Lynda Buehring has volunteered to be on the membership committee. I would like a committee of members to handle the membership rolls.

Other announcements:

- Catherine Chambers has agreed to be our new treasurer.
- Judith Entwife has resurrected the by-laws that the branch and State approved with our name change to Whatcom. I can now proceed with the process to get that done and then apply for our 501c3 classification.
- I will have a stack of business cards at the April meeting; everyone is encouraged to take a few.

The branch email address is:
aauw.bellinghambranch@gmail.com This is listed on our website.



Emily Ingersoll

Rave reviews for scholarship recipient

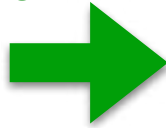
Members at the March meeting had only good things to say about Emily Ingersoll when she took part in our March meeting. She is one of our new scholarship recipients at Western Washington University. “Bright,” and “full of ideas” were just a couple of the adjectives applied.

Thanks, Emily, for energizing our meeting!





In lieu of the regular May meeting...



Enjoy a *Bellinghistory* tour - without the walk!

Please join us on May 2nd for a presentation by the Bellingham History Tours Good Time Girls as they share Bellingham's changing attitudes about "having a good time in the old town."



Learn about the rise and fall of the town's red-light-district and the saloon culture through the prohibition era when it all went underground!

The event will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lake Padden Estates Clubhouse (near the rear of the complex. Enter at 4949 Samish Way.) Beverages and appetizers are provided. Suggested donation is \$30. and will go towards college scholarships.

Mark your calendar!

April

April 13 Monthly meeting. Speaker will be the Bellingham Chief of Police, Rebecca Mertzig. 10 a.m., Mt. Baker Theatre Encore Room.

April 27 Executive Board meeting, 9 a.m.– via Zoom

April 25 AAUW Book Club, 12:30 p.m. at Affinity Apartments Library, 3930 Affinity Lane. Use the keypad by the front door to have Kay Davin buzz you in. **Book is *Demon Copperhead***, by Barbara Kingsolver. Hardback, 2022. 560pp/F WINNER OF THE 2023 PULITZER PRIZE •

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.

AAUW-WA is a charitable, non-profit organization in Washington State which works to change the climate for women and girls.

We accomplish this through education, research, advocacy and philanthropy. Contact Lynda Buehring, goldracket@aol.com or Sandy Hays, sanhaydaisy@gmail.com





One more recipient: AAUW's Western Washington University Scholarship winners

We have a second photograph from the February 23rd WWU scholarship dinner. Last month, we showed recipient Aubrey Templeton, front left. This month, a second photo adds Emily Ingersoll, front right. Standing, from left: Margo Hammond, Elsie Heinrick, Susan Moen, AAUW Co-President Uzma Ahmad, and her husband, University President Sabah Randhawa.

Aubrey is a junior majoring in Biology with hopes to go on to a masters in Zoology. **Emily** is a freshman thinking about a major in Social Services. Our third recipient, **Hanako Mantooth**, was not able to attend the dinner.



Whatcom AAUW has six candidates for STEM camp

Pam Sankey has announced that six young women have been selected to attend Tech Trek next July at the Pacific Lutheran University campus. Fundraising goes on all year, and the final \$700 from our treasury needed to send the girls was recently okayed to be sent to the Tech Trek office. (The funds had previously been approved.)

A “Meet and Greet” for the girls and their parents, and interested AAUW members, is set for May 18.

Camp is designed to increase interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) among young women who will enter the eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on learning and focusing on current popular science careers.

Tech Trek introduces girls to local successful female STEM professionals, teaches girls that their intellectual skills will grow over time, and demonstrates that it is possible to break traditional female career stereotypes.

AAUW State Convention

The AAUW state convention will be held April 21 via Zoom, and a second, *in-person* convention is set for September in Renton. <https://bellingham-wa.aauw.net/> for the Whatcom web pages.

Former Bellingham Tech Trek camper in the hunt for Olympic berth

Elena Wolgamot, granddaughter of our Branch member Susan Moen, won both of her recent kayak races, the gold medal for K1 and the gold medal for K2. K2 means two people in a kayak. She will now be going on to the Continental Regatta in Florida. If she were to win there, she would go on to the Olympics in Paris in August. She also graduates from the University of Washington with a degree in Electrical and Computing Engineering on June 5.



A letter from Julia Brown, National AAUW Board Chair**Expand our collective impact - Vote YES for Open Membership**

For over a century, AAUW has championed gender equity while evolving strategically. Now we can build upon our legacy by welcoming all who share our mission, regardless of degree status.

Why does this matter? Because our standing as a leading voice for gender equity demands we practice the inclusion we fight for.

Far from devaluing our work, this evolution recognizes that many champion equity through non-traditional paths.

Rest assured, an open membership won't require changing our name or mission. AAUW will remain the powerful organization you've always known, open to a wider universe of equity allies.

For over a century, our ability to evolve has been our strength. In these uncertain times, we need to include all allies, regardless of degree status.

Let's forge a more just, equitable future together by voting YES on open membership.

In solidarity,
Julia Brown

From AAUW National:

Elections 2024

What: Your vote counts! This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

When: Bylaw voting opens April 3. Online voting is encouraged! Voting closes May 15, after which results will be announced online.

Additional Resources: You can review the proposed bylaw changes on the national website. The open membership toolkit can also be reviewed there, along with a statement on civility and inclusivity.

**HAPPY
APRIL BIRTHDAYS!**

Kathy Jenkis	5th
Judy Fruhbauer	19th
Suzanne Thorp	21st
Sue McDonald	24th
Liz Wright	27th
Robin Lynn Kagan	30th



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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