

Change in venue and time for October 12th meeting

Our AAUW meeting will be held this month at the **B-Town Kitchen**, inside the Sheraton Hotel at 714 Lakeway Drive. The meeting time has been changed to **11:30 a.m.** due to the venue's opening hours.

The restaurant has a separate entrance on the north end of the building, with plenty of parking.

There will be plenty of time to chat as we each order our lunch — the restaurant is known for its seafood. Catherine Chambers will give a talk on ballot initiatives, and there will be some branch business to discuss.

The original plan to meet at the Ferry Terminal was scrapped because we learned another large group was already planning to use the space.



October calendar

Oct. 12 **Monthly meeting**, at B-Town Restaurant, 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 19 **State Meeting** in Renton. Registration will close at midnight Oct. 6. aauw-wa.aauw.net

Oct. 24 **AAUW Book Club**, 12:30 p.m. at Affinity Apartments Library, 3930 Affinity Lane.

Oct. 26 **AAUW Board meeting**, 9 a.m. via Zoom.

A big bonus: Winner of the raffle basket at the September AAUW meeting was Tech Trek Camper Amina Shah, shown here with her little sister

See more inside about Bellingham Mayor Kim Lund's speech to our members and our Tech Trek Campers — Page 3

HOSPITALITY HELP!

A captain is needed for the Hospitality activities preceding meetings when we have refreshments. It is not difficult but very important! Carol Simmer has a box of supplies that she would give to a new captain: mainly paper supplies, the cream pitcher, tongs, etc. Arrangements for coffee pick-up is also an important task, and can be delegated to different volunteers. Set-up and clean-up of the refreshments and beverages also can be delegated to members as needed, but the captain does need to get to the meeting venue when it opens.

Carol has membership committee duties at meetings now and cannot do both jobs well. Please let Carol know if you will help or commit to being the CAPTAIN! *Thank You!!*

A note to members: Please put labels on containers and utensils you bring to meetings! Thank you for all the wonderful food donations you bring! Members and guests all enjoy your edibles - homemade or not!

Carol Simmer
(360) 961-4519 or carollsimmer@gmail.com



Thanks for stepping up!

George Edwards has volunteered to step into our vacant branch secretary position.

Welcome to new members!

At our September meeting, we gained two new members: **Billie Emert**, a “walking buddy” of Susan Moen and Uzma Ahmad; and **Fatimah Rosli**, the mother of one of our Tech Trek campers! We are so glad to welcome you!

Membership in Whatcom Branch of American Association of University Women is open to college graduates and those with associate degrees from accredited schools. There are also “Friends” and “College Student” membership levels. 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.

Please see Page 8 for information on joining or renewing.

Bellingham's second female mayor has words of wisdom and encouragement for Whatcom AAUW Tech Trek campers

by Gwen Parker,
Newsletter editor

“Spend time practicing what is difficult for you — this is where real growth can happen,” Bellingham Mayor Kim Lund told Tech Trek campers at the September AAUW meeting which honored this year's camp attendees. *“Be comfortable being uncomfortable,”* she continued, and *“learn to lean on others.”*

Mayor Lund shared that she grew up in Bellingham, and attended Roosevelt Elementary. From a middle class family, she became a first generation college student, graduating from the University of Washington.

She explained that strong teachers and mentors helped her build confidence in her abilities: When she wanted to drop a college trigonometry class, her teachers would not let her, saying they would help her through it, and show her that there is value in the struggle.

She came to understand that math, science and engineering help us understand our world. Systems thinking (an engineering problem-solving approach that focuses on the relationships between the parts of a system and how they influence the system's behavior) has been valuable in her work with Bellingham School District and as mayor.

Mayor Lund also spoke of “leading with an open heart,” and “the nobility of being in service to the community.” In response to a question, she said she was interested in letting students “shadow” her on the job, and said she would like to expand the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Committee by adding a Youth Advisory Committee.

She ended by saying, “Give yourself grace.”



Champion for education: Kim Lund, our September 2024 speaker, is shown above at our September 2014 meeting, which had a “Women in Science” theme. At that time, Lund was executive director of the Bellingham Public School Foundation.





Whatcom AAUW Tech Trek 2024 alumni: Grace Pahl, Whatcom Middle School; Mildred Nims, Fairhaven MS; Lila Munson, Shuksan MS; Brooklyn Slavens, Fairhaven MS; El-Feodora Foo, Whatcom MS, and Amina Shah, Shuksan MS.



Former Trekkers: Among several past years' campers hearing Mayor Lund's speech were from left, Kody Hampton, Sherlyn Montalvo, Gwenyth Brown and Tessa Cherry.

One more Tech Trek memory!

This is part of a note Susan Moen read at the September meeting, regarding Tech Trek. She received it from her granddaughter Elena, who was one of our campers several years ago. Elena is also a USA National Champion in kayaking.

“Thank you for being so supportive of me passing a hard STEM major. University of Washington Electrical & Computer Engineering has a very low percentage of women, and the consistent empowerment has allowed me to become one of them. You do such incredible work with supporting women and girls in science, and I hope I can join the efforts as I begin my professional career. Thanks you for your constant love and support. Love, Elena



Health news

Get-well-soon wishes for Suzanne Thorp, our Sunshine Lady, who recently had a ride in a helicopter followed by heart surgery!

Also, for Carolyn Kinne, who reports that her back surgery was successful!

Book lovers welcome!

AAUW Book Club meets Oct. 24, 12:30 p.m. at Affinity Apartments Library, 3930 Affinity Lane, just off Telegraph Road. Use the keypad by the front door to have Kay Davin buzz you in. Book is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery*, by James McBride
Questions? Gwen Parker, 360-224-6027



Happy Birthday

Louise Bjornson	Oct. 16th
Maggie Moore	Oct. 20th

Farewell, College Pantries

It was decided at the last Branch Executive Board meeting to discontinue support of food banks at the local colleges and university. Waning support and difficult logistics informed the decision.

Please remember, each institution has a foundation to which members may donate, if they wish.

Scholarship/College Relations Committee Update

by Carol Simmer

College Relations Committee Chairperson

Late spring and summer activities were enjoyed by members representing AAUW-Whatcom.

On May 3rd, Esther Golde and Pam Sankey attended Whatcom Community College Foundation's President's Circle. They enjoyed a beautiful buffet and an interesting presentation by Dr. Jason Love, Professor of Pathology and a co-discoverer of the first Tyrannosaurus Rex in the Pacific Northwest!

On August 15th, Cathy Oberg and Carolyn Kinne attended the Summer Salmon Barbecue sponsored by the Western Washington University Foundation. President Randhawa and Uzma Ahmad were gracious hosts.

Both of these events honored the sponsors who gave generous donations to their foundations this past year.

Bellingham Technical College gave Jeena Rex the AAUW Whatcom scholarship for 2024. Jeena sent a lovely letter of appreciation for the scholarship. She is attending the Dental Hygiene school at BTC. She wrote, "attending school has been quite adventurous with having three little kids at home. My whole family thanks you for your generosity!"

As we learn which students receive our scholarships, we try to contact them and invite them to one of our meetings. Generally, they are so busy on Saturdays. that few accept our invitation. Sometimes we are able to meet our scholarship winners at an event sponsored by the institution and it is always a joy to meet them. If you want to participate on this committee, please let Carol Simmer know. She is looking for members to be a liaison between AAUW Whatcom and both WCC and BTC



Looking forward to November

Our November meeting will be at the Rotunda Room at the Whatcom Museum. We will have **Music Therapist Gayle Cloud** speak about the use of music in therapy. We can start at 9 to set up the room and must be finished at 12 when the public is allowed into the Museum. This will be a very interesting and special program. We may also ask members to donate to help defray the expenses of the room rental.

Out and about...



Get out and vote! (Which of course, in this state, just means slipping your ballot into the mailbox or ballot box.) Judy Fruhbauer, left, and Kay Davin write voting reminder postcards at one of the two card-writing parties held at Kathy Jenkis's home. Judy also hosted a party, and there were probably others I just didn't hear about! Thanks for the opportunity, Judy and Kathy! — *Gwen Parker*

Welcome to AAUW

How to join or renew

AAUW Whatcom Membership Renewal or joining as a new member is easily done online at <https://www.aauw.org/membership> or mail a check to:

AAUW Whatcom Treasurer
PO Box 29862
Bellingham, WA. 98228

Regular Membership: \$93.00
Other Membership:
Event Special: \$57.00
Friend of AAUW: \$10.00
College Students: \$18.81

Contact Lynda Buehring,
goldracket@aol.com
or
Carol Simmer
carollsimmer@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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