

Do you have a record of your roots?

The April 12th AAUW general meeting will feature a lesson on genealogy, led by branch member Cathie Oberg and members of the Whatcom Genealogical Society.

We will gather in the downstairs meeting room at **Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Avenue. Doors open at 10 a.m.**, but since we have to set up chairs and tables, **the meeting will begin at 10:30.** We have the room until 12:30, so consider your parking meter situation ahead of time.

The meeting is open to the public - bring a friend!

We will hear about the research tools available for anyone wishing to learn more about their ancestry, including the library's microfiche files and local history books on the shelves..

Afterwards, we will break into small groups to discuss our own family histories, and/or our efforts to preserve them. Do you have a small memento or photo that's a family treasure? Perhaps you could bring that along to spark discussion.

Persons with last names beginning with **A through L are asked to bring finger foods** to share. Coffee will be provided.

<i>What's inside....</i>	
New members	Pg. 2
Out and about	Pg. 4
Book club plea	Pg. 5
Letter from our prez	Pg. 6
.....and much more!	



Slate of officers named and budget outlined

At our May meeting, we will vote on our branch budget, and elect new officers. Here is the list of those nominated:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| President | Judi Edwards |
| Secretary | George Edwards |
| Membership | Carol Simmer |
| Program Chair | Cathie Oberg |

A copy of the proposed budget is on Page 6. In short, the current savings balance is \$20,225.10 with a revenue of \$849. The total operating budget is set at \$7,518.

Without touching savings, there is a deficit of \$6,564 that needs to be raised this year. The fiscal year starts on July 1st.

Welcome, new Whatcom Branch members!

Joining us recently are:

Joyce Hoover
Beata McBride
Catherine Sheldon
Fatimah Rosli
Danette Keegan
Bette Schwede

and REJOINING us after several years' absence is Louise Bjornson!

We are so happy to have you all !

Membership Matters...

Are your dues due?

It used to be that all our dues were paid in the spring, so we could put reminders in the March and April newsletters. That spring date still applies for old-timers with the association. But for new members, they are due in the anniversary month of your joining.

Either way, your renewal notice now comes from National AAUW, via email.

AAUW's primary mission is to advance gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

Whatcom AAUW provides scholarships to selected students at Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical School and Northwest Indian College.

We also provide scholarships to Girls Go Tech, a science camp for middle school girls.

Thanks to Branch members and many community members for their financial support.

Tech Trek news

Our Tech Trek committee, led by Pam Sankey, has several nominees for the science camp this coming summer. Girls have been nominated by Fairhaven, Shuksan and Whatcom Middle Schools.

Whatcom AAUW has funds for five campers this year, and will have one alternate. Cost per girl this year is \$1600. Donations from our members are welcome, and are due by April 1st.

The local community has been very supportive of this chance for girls to try out a variety of scientific career paths, and AAUW thanks everyone very much.

The camp is held each summer at Pacific Lutheran University. This year's dates are July 13-19.

Happy April Birthday!

Kathy Jenkis	5th
Judy Fruhbauer	19th
Suzanne Thorp	21st
Sue McDonald	24th



WCC celebration

Carol Simmer, AAUW Whatcom College Relations Chairperson, and Treasurer Catherine Chambers attended Whatcom Community College's annual President's Circle Celebration on March 7.

This was an extra-special event this year, to honor WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Ed.D., who is retiring after 18 years of service. President Brown has been an exceptional leader for WCC and the community. She will be missed!

During her tenure, WCC expanded its curriculum by adding cybersecurity, health professions, engineering and social work. The cybersecurity program was named a National Center for Excellence.

Dr. Hiyane-Brown also oversaw growth on the campus, including spaces for new programs, student housing and an intercultural center.



Honoring WCC President: From left, Carol Simmer, WCC President Kathi Hiyane-Brown and Catherine Chambers.

Volunteer opportunity at WCC

Carol Simmer needs a volunteer from our membership as a liaison between AAUW and Whatcom Community College.

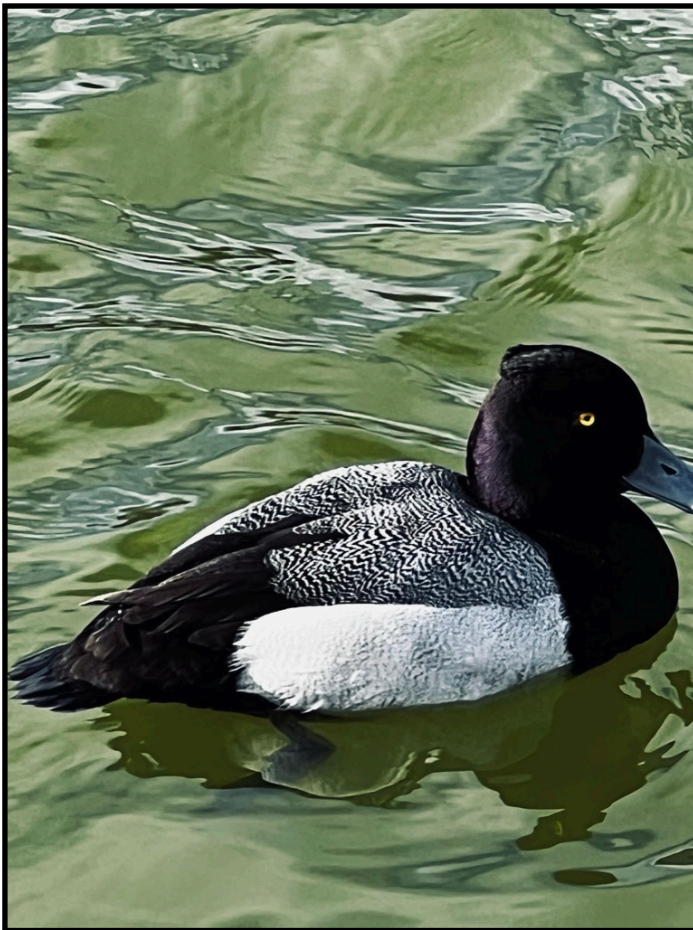
This person would be part of the College Relations / Scholarship Committee. Interested members may contact Carol at (360) 961-4519.

Mark your calendar for our May and June meetings

May is our annual business meeting, where we will vote on the budget and elect officers. It will be held **May 6 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.**

Our June meeting will be on a Friday (the 13th!) at Vartagnan Estate Winery, for a wine-tasting and potluck. This was so much fun last time, in 2015, we are planning a second visit to this boutique winery with a view (on a sunny day) of Mt. Baker. It's hard to believe it has been 10 years!

Out and about in Bellingham and beyond...(or, What is there to do around here?) Invite a buddy or two!



Isn't this a gorgeous photo? Susan Moen captured this Greater Scaup (also known as a Bluebill) at the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Ladner, BC. Check their website for visitors info.

The Red Dress is no longer at the LaConner Quilt and Textile Museum, but the museum always has remarkable shows. The Red Dress project was conceived by British artist Kirstie Macleod, providing an artistic platform for people from all over the world, many of whom are vulnerable and/or live in poverty, to tell their stories through embroidery.

From 2009 to 2022, pieces of The Red Dress and later the completed garment travelled the globe being embroidered upon. Constructed out of 87 panels of burgundy silk dupion, the dress has been worked on by 367 women/girls, 11 men/boys and two non-binary artists from 51 countries.



Whatcom AAUW is sponsoring a short film called "Rupture from Canada" at the Cascadia International Women's Film Festival. The film deals with inequities women face in receiving health care. It is Shorts program #1 on April 25th at 1 - 2:30 pm. Tickets can be ordered online at <https://ciwff2025.eventive.org/passes/buy>

The annual festival will run April 24th through April 27th.

CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival is a Bellingham-based festival dedicated to discovering, developing and showcasing women filmmakers and promoting the Pacific Northwest as a destination for film production and filmgoing audiences.



How about coming to Book Club?

The AAUW Book Club will meet April 24, 12:30 p.m. at Affinity Apartments Library, 3930 Affinity Lane. **Guests are welcome!**

The book for discussion is *American Diva: Extraordinary, Unruly, Fabulous*, by Deborah Paredez, "A poet's tribute to divas...A close, personal, well-informed examination of powerful women and their artistic work." — *Kirkus Reviews*

We need more members, or the book club will cease to exist. For a lively discussion, we need lots of voices. If you are looking for a book group, or have been a member in the past, won't you join us? It is time for us to choose books for another six month's worth of reading. We do this by vote, probably at the May meeting, so new members will have a say in what we read.

Meetings are generally the fourth Thursday of each month. We are open to a change of venue, if anyone has a suggestion for a new location.

And bring a friend:

One need not be an AAUW member to attend.

Questions? Gwen Parker,
360-224-6027



Lunch at Lombardi's

AAUW members celebrated International Women's Day at our March meeting, held at Lombardi's Restaurant.

Everyone used the opportunity for a lot of conversation, and Catherine Chambers gave a short talk.

Photo courtesy of Judi Edwards

AAUW Leadership in Our Current Environment

Across AAUW there is a crisis at a time when we must stand firm with a solid group of branch and state level leaders. Yes, many of us have served before and we are at the point where we want to just “enjoy things”. But we can’t do that, not now. Branch leadership is the driving force that guides decisions, shapes outcomes, and inspires individuals to unite for a common purpose. Without leaders we will cease to be a branch.

A participatory leadership model doesn’t just serve the present, it prepares for the future. We have already suffered the loss of a valuable program, High School Scholars, from the lack of leadership. Leadership is not perpetual; it must be passed on to be successful. Let us not continue the overall attitude of “let someone else do it”.

By offering opportunities for members to step into leadership roles, we cultivate a pipeline of individuals who can step up when needed. These emerging leaders gain valuable skills and experience, ensuring the continuity and growth of the group. If you are a newer AAUW member, consider volunteering to work with a current board member. Attend board meetings to see what is involved. You joined for a reason, and I doubt it was for tea times. If you are an old hand at this, get back to it!

In our branch we have a president who will be serving a third term simply because no one else stepped up. This is not sustainable; a fourth term is prohibited by our bylaws.

On a related note, the state board is also looking for members, as is the board of Special Projects Fund (SPF). SPF is the financial arm of Tech Trek, and without SPF there is no Tech Trek in our state.

Reach out, connect and volunteer to be an AAUW leader. *AAUW is nothing without you.*

Judi Edwards, CCP, MBA

Co-President Whatcom Branch jedwards@syscongrp.com

President SPF Board



Proposed Whatcom AAUW Budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year

This budget will be voted on at the May meeting.

Category	Proposed	Actual		
Certificate of Deposit				
Savings		\$20,225.10		
Revenue				
Checking Account		\$849.00	as of March 21,2025	
Dues from members				
Total				
Fundraising Needed	\$6,564.00			
Total Operating Budget	\$7,518			
Expenses				
General Meeting Space	\$1,000			
Speaker gifts/Fees	\$300			
Coffee	\$200.00			
Total Proposed	\$1,500.00			
Membership Development				
Events	\$200.00			
Venues	\$250.00			
Membership Book Printing	\$500.00			
Total Proposed	\$950.00			
Tech Trek	\$900.00			
Events				
Picnic	\$300.00			
Holiday Party	\$200.00			
Required Insurance	\$150.00			
Refreshments	\$550.00			
Total	\$1,200			
Scholarships				
Whatcom Community College	\$1,000			
Bellingham Technical College	\$1,000			
NW Indian College	\$1,000	\$1,000		
WWU Endowment				
Total	\$3,000			

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: \$95.00
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

Bellingham Branch AAUW

P.O. Box 29862 Bellingham, WA 98228
<https://bellingham-wa.aauw.net/>

Executive Board 2024-25

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Carol Simmer

360-961-4519

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Secretary

George Edwards

aauwwhatcom@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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