



Members Danette Keegan, Catherine Sheldon and Esther Golde enjoy the sun on the winery lawn.



Business and celebration combine at June picnic

A relaxing setting and a busy agenda were keynotes at the AAUW Whatcom picnic on June 13th, at Vartanyan Estate Winery.

A picnic lunch and wine-tasting, along with good old-fashioned visiting and a couple of raffles made an enjoyable afternoon.

Also, there was business to attend to: Due to circumstances beyond our control, we had not managed to hold election of officers in May, so that was accomplished.

Here is a list of the officers:

President

Judi Edwards (she has agreed to stay on for a few more months)

Membership Chair

Carol Simmer

Program Chair

Cathie Oberg

Secretary

Susan McLeod

Treasurer

Catherine Chambers



From left, Kay Davin, Katie Calhoun, Rachel Lynch and Elsie Heinrick.

During the business session, many women spoke up to express gratitude for the hours members have spent on AAUW concerns. Those thanked include Co-President Judi Edwards (who was unable to attend) and retiring Co-President Uzma Ahmad; Carol Simmer, for her many years of Hospitality work and work on College Relations; Susan Moen for her work putting together programs and venues for this past year, as well as organizing our picnic; *(Continued on Page 2)*

Many hands make light work

(Continued from Page 1)

Susan McLeod also for doing yeoman's duty on setting up the picnic; Catherine Chambers for her work on Public Policy and for taking on the job of Treasurer; and Judy Paulson for her work as former treasurer.

Thanks also to members who were absent: Lynda Buehring, for her work as Co-Membership Chair, and George Edwards, for stepping in as Secretary.

Many others also have contributed their time and energy for our projects, including Pam Sankey and Jean Cox-Treverton for their work on Tech Trek. Also, Uzma Ahmad for hosting our Christmas party, and all the members who helped with that marvelous evening. Esther Golde has created many pieces of artwork for our events, as well as being keeper of the nametags! Suzannne Thorp continues as our Sunshine Lady!



Carol Simmer, left, presented flowers to our past officers and a few other members, in appreciation of their contributions. Here, Susan Moen, center, and Uzma Ahmad.

(Editor's note: I got flowers, too! Thank you, Carol!)

AAUW state meeting slated

Heritage University in Toppenish, WA, will be the site of an in-person AAUW state meeting on Sept. 6. More information will be coming soon. It is informative, inspiring and fun to attend a state meeting — think seriously about coming as a carload to attend.



(Photo courtesy of Varya Fish)

Were you here? I found a few AAUW faces as I mingled in the crowd. This photo, taken from upstairs in Bellingham Public Library, captures some of the throng gathered for the June 14th No Kings protest rally against the Trump Administration's activities. People were closely packed around at the City Hall steps, and more loosely situated in front of the library. It was a quintessential peaceful protest — one can see kids and dogs, people in wheelchairs and on bicycles, with flags and signs abounding. Cascadia Daily News estimated up to 7,000 attendees, and as one of the participants, I can attest that people were still streaming into the area as I was leaving after the first hour...

Gwen Parker, Newsletter Editor

Reinstating a former practice

At the last AAUW Whatcom executive board meeting, it was voted to reinstate our former practice of asking members for a \$5 donation at each monthly meeting. Purpose of this is to defray the cost of room rental. Occasionally, we get a free spot, but not often!



New Member/All Members Casual Coffee

The AAUW Whatcom Board, along with both new and returning members of the branch, have expressed a desire for more social time than is possible at regular meetings. I love the idea and have arranged for two days and times for any or all of us to gather, if possible, at the **Bellingham Golf and Country Club's dining room** on the days that are least busy at the club (Tuesdays and Wednesdays.) I chose to start with Tuesday, July 22nd, between 4 and 6 p.m. and Wednesday, July 30th, between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided and if you wish, you may order from the country club menu for lunch or early dinner.

I would like to know how many will come at the arranged times, but an RSVP is NOT necessary. Come at those times and bring a non-member friend if you wish. I hope to see you at one or both of these get-togethers. It will be a great chance for new and old members to get to know each other,



Carol Simmer
Membership Chair
(360)961-4519

Summer calendar

AAUW Whatcom takes a break from formal meetings during July and August, but there are some activities planned. See the article above about coffee dates at the Country Club, and see the Book Club schedule on Page 6. There will be an Executive Board meeting August 23, to start getting revved up for September.

The newsletter takes a break, too, with the next one due in late August.

Otherwise, it is time to garden, hike, travel, sit in the sun and read, or whatever else (literally) floats your boat! Enjoy your summer!

Storage Space Needed!

All members please read this!!

Our Branch has several important and several not-so-important items to keep track-of! A central place is needed to store items. When items and documents get used by several people in a year's time, things get lost and forgotten about until needed again! The Board has tried to locate a central place where supplies and larger items can be kept and be accessible. (These include items like posters, bulletin boards and microphone as well as treasurer's documents.)

Public storage space between Ferndale and Bellingham and in Bellingham city limits has been researched and found to be way out of our budget until our fund-raising improves for our general fund. A public space will cost at least between \$50 and \$100 per month!! **Could every member look in their community for a space that meets this criteria:**

1. At least 5'x5' space
2. Free or little cost
3. Easily accessible, preferably no steps to climb
4. Parking spot available long enough to load and unload
5. Owner of space gives us adequate availability to come and go as needed.

Suggestions for space could be a church or other organization's space, a private home's garage or outside shed, or free space in another room. I know this is a difficult task, but it needs to be solved. .

Right now, Susan Moen has loaned us a space in her garage ,but she lives near Lake Padden, which is not a central location for most of us.

This is an on-going project for all of us so keep it in the back of your mind!

To All Members - THANK YOU FOR TRYING!

Carol Simmer

Book Club news

Here's what we are reading over the next four months- Come join us for a discussion!

July 24

South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation, by Imani Perry

WINNER OF THE 2022 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NONFICTION

This is the story of a Black woman and native Alabaman returning to the region she has always called home and considering it with fresh eyes. Her journey is full of detours, deep dives, and surprising encounters with places and people.

August 28

How to Read a Book: A Novel, by Monica Wood

National Bestseller * From the award-winning author of *The One-in-a-Million Boy* comes a heartfelt novel about a chance encounter at a bookstore, exploring redemption, unlikely friendships, and the life-changing power of sharing stories.

September 25

Trick Mirror, by Jia Tolentino

NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY AND HARVARD CRIMSON

Jia Tolentino is a peerless voice of her generation, tackling the conflicts, contradictions, and sea changes that define us and our time. Now, in this dazzling collection of nine entirely original essays, she delves into the forces that warp our vision, sharing her thoughts about a troubling history and the ritual humiliations and joys that characterize so much of Southern life.

October 23

The Berry Pickers, by Amanda Peters

Named a Best Book of the Year by Barnes & Noble, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Good Housekeeping*, *CrimeReads*, *Booklist* and more

"A harrowing tale of Indigenous family separation.. With *The Berry Pickers*, Peters takes on the monumental task of giving witness to people like her Mi'kmaw ancestors who suffered through racist attempts of erasure.



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

Contact: Gwen Parker, 360-224-6027,
parker.gwen@comcast.net



Happy Summer Birthday!

July:

Carol Simmer	3rd
Beata McBride	10th
Patty Robison	14th
Susan McLeod	24th
Catherine Oberg	26th

August:

Esther Golde	3rd
Mialee Jose	5th
Elsie Heinrick	15th
Pam Sankey	24th

Another hat for Judi

The AAUW-WA director of communications role has transitioned to our Whatcom Branch President Judi Edwards. You can contact her at the communications@aauw-wa.org email address.

She'll be able to help you with:

- Adding events to the statewide calendar
- Scheduling meetings using the statewide Zoom account
- Obtaining past issues of the Evergreen Leader and other AAUW-WA documents
- Promoting your events on the AAUW-WA Facebook and Instagram pages
- Access to Canva graphics and templates for your branch

From AAUW Washington:



One BIG broken promise. Congress has passed a bill that threatens to roll back decades of progress in education, equity, and women's rights.

“...this legislation will shut the doors of opportunities for millions—especially women, low-income families, and communities of color.”

AAUW press release, July 3, 2025

For AAUW, this is personal. We are the nation's largest non-institutional funder of women's graduate education. For more than 140 years, we've fought to open the doors of higher education to all women—not just those who can afford it. And we know the truth: **when women lose access to education, they lose access to opportunity, economic security, and equity.**

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:
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

IT Specialist

Judi Edwards

360-303-0487

jedwards@syscongrp.com

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