



AAUW

American Association
of University Women

The Anacortes Agent

Volume 29 Number 6.....February 2013

Saturday, February 9, at 10:00 A.M.

Westminster Presbyterian Church ~ Fellowship Hall

(Please enter through the alley entrance behind the church)



Join us for coffee and snacks and a wonderful guest speaker, Jane Billingham. She is a WSU Skagit County Extension Master Gardener volunteer with a particular interest in sustainable gardening practices. Named Master Gardener of the Year for Washington State in 2012, she is currently leading rain garden outreach in Skagit. Jane grew up in the south of England. She became a life member of the National Trust in her teens after volunteering for a work party at the famed Stourhead landscape garden in Wiltshire. After studying at Oxford University, she pursued a career in book publishing--as an editor, publisher, and then writer. She is the author of six books. Her most recent, *The Armchair Book of Gardens*, is an anthology that looks at the ways in which people enjoy and express themselves in their gardens.

The US World Book Night is being organized once again and our branch has made an application to receive 20 books to give to infrequent readers. The 2013 event is scheduled for April 23, so the timing is perfect.



Our hope is that we will be able to give out books at our Spring Tea and organize a book club to follow up with our readers. Watermark will once again host the event in Anacortes.



Happy Birthday!

Reanne Hemingway-Douglass (2/11) Jessica Koeberle (2/12) Barbara Martyn-Godfrey (2/15)

Sandy Huggins (2/16) Barbara Lewis (2/16) Linda Hendrick (2/22) Gay Woods (2/28)

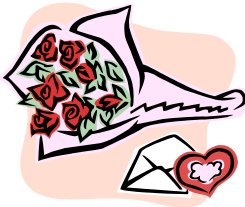
Please extend a welcome to our newest members ~

Polly Myers is a part-time teacher at Western with a 6 year old son and 3 year old daughter. myers212@umn.edu

Dr. Jamie Cromack recently moved to Anacortes and started a new sport tech business. jcromack@comcast.net

Dr. Jennifer Bryan is an on-line special education high school teacher. – jlqorder@yahoo.com

Our branch was represented at the recent AAUW *Lobby Day* by Bunny Heiner and Andrea Doll, who joined a large crowd of fellow AAUW members for the day in Olympia. There they enjoyed a number of speakers and visited the office of Kristine Lytton, who is the only woman currently on the Finance Committee and will serve as Deputy Majority Floor Leader during the upcoming 2013-14 legislative sessions.



February is made for Romance!

Our *Writers' Forum* this year will feature four Northwest Romance authors. Whether or not this is a genre you read, the essence of the forum is to feature the process each author takes on her journey to publication. This year several of our authors have chosen to publish electronically, a topic that should be of interest to many budding authors. Put this on your calendar –

Saturday, February 27, at 1:00 p.m. at the Anacortes Library meeting room.

Meet our Authors

Marcella Burnard - Begin your journey with the question, what if? Then discover that in every single case, the one person with the power to redeem or destroy you, is the astute, magnetic, sexy man standing square in your path. Welcome aboard. Growing up an Air Force brat, I moved often and traveled all over the US. We spent two years in Iceland, watching blue whales migrate, volcanoes erupt and geysers spew steaming, superheated water into the cold air. The whole family did plenty of reading. When the tiny base library ran out of interesting books in the kids' section, and wouldn't allow me in the adult section yet, I began writing my own stories.

Shannon Winslow - Join me as I weave together my passion for writing and my love of all things Jane Austen. I'm interested in books that entertain, that make you feel good, that sweep you away to another world. Although I know that without conflict there is no story, I'm glad when it's time to do away with the culprits and reunite friends and lovers for a happy ending. Reader satisfaction, in my opinion, stems from the hero or heroine overcoming difficulties, not being destroyed by them. I can be trusted to not dwell on guilt or misery any longer than necessary, and to restore the characters I've come to care about to tolerable comfort by the end of the book, as Jane Austen always did.

Kendra Elliot - As a kid, I read and read and read. Laura Ingalls, Nancy Drew, and Trixie Belden were my close companions, and I was never without a book in hand. Today mysteries are my primary reading genre, but I love a sweeping historical novel. I decided to try my hand at novel writing after I read a newspaper article about NaNoWriMo (an annual novel writing project that brings together professional and amateur writers from all over the world). I sat down and wrote a contemporary romance but kept tripping over dead bodies in each chapter. I got the hint and my stories evolved into romantic suspense.

Linda Hope Lee - I've been a classroom teacher and a school librarian. When I decided to pursue writing, I began with short stories. After selling to the confession market, I decided to attempt a novel. The result was a romantic suspense, *Home for the Heart*.



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January Board Meeting Highlights

- The board discussed the website and discussed what would be 'members only'
- Bunny Heiner and Andrea Doll will attend Lobby Day; others will be encouraged to attend at January meeting
- Linda reported on the four romance authors who will speak at the Writers' Forum; \$50 will be paid to each author for travel expenses
- Rosette reported on Tech Trek; we are waiting to see how camp nominations will work before committing support
- Reanne will ask Watermark to be a ticket seller for our Tea
- The Board decided to pursue creating a trust before beginning our fundraising campaign; the January letter writing campaign will be cancelled

Did you know?

1. Washington state economy has the highest concentration of **STEM** jobs in the nation?
2. By 2018 there will be a 24% growth of **STEM** jobs in Washington (7 points about the national average).
3. In the last 10 years the number of jobs in **STEM** has grown 3X faster than other types of jobs.
4. Almost ½ of Washington's 4th grade teachers report teaching **STEM** subjects less than 2 hours per week; only 4 states reported less instruction.
5. Between 2012 and 2017, 30,000 jobs in Washington State will go unfulfilled because of a lack of qualified **STEM** candidates.
6. Of every 100 Washington 9th graders, only 6 will graduate with a **STEM** related college degree.

An exciting new venture is taking place in Anacortes elementary schools. Working through the Anacortes Schools Foundation and with local PTA's, this group is committed to creating equality in our elementary schools regarding **STEM** focused enrichment experiences, creating parity across the school district in fundraising for **STEM**, maintaining school Science Boxes, and maximizing the use of local resources.

The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 4, at 7 p.m. at the home of Bunny Heiner, 804 K Avenue, 293-4120.