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The Anacortes Agent

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Holiday Potluck Party on Thursday, December 12

Fidalgo Yacht Club at 6:00 p.m. ❄️

*4046 Sands Way**

Join us as we celebrate in December with a potluck dinner at the Fidalgo Yacht Club. Board members will provide beverages (including spirits) and members are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, main course item, or dessert to share. We generally have around 50 people including spouses and guests. This year the board is suggesting cash or check donations to Salvation Army Food Bank to purchase whatever is most needed. There's plenty of parking on the lower level at the boat storage, however, if you cannot manage stairs, continue past the lower parking level to the upper lot where there is limited space.

***Directions:** From the west side of Fidalgo Island, take Anaco Beach Road to Kingsway. Kingsway becomes Sands Way as you cross Skyline Way to the boat storage/yacht club on the left **OR** take 12th Street (which becomes Oakes, then Sunset Way) to Skyline. Turn left on Skyline Way and proceed to Sands Way (by Old Salts) and turn right. Less than a block from your turn, locate the boat storage sign on your left. The Yacht Club is located upstairs. Parking is down below, but drop off can be made at the upper level.



Cordelia Hightower (12/3) Leslie Lukasik (12/6) Holly Giles (12/12) Mary Rytand (12/21)
Pat Jackson (12/22) Deborah Claus (12/26)

...Member News...

New branch member **ERIN RIEGER** was elected to the Anacortes School Board in the recent election. She has a B.S. in Nursing and an M.S. in Nursing (A.R.N.P.), both from Seattle Pacific University. She and her husband, Dr. Rob Rieger, have three daughters, all of whom are graduates of Anacortes High School.

New AAUW board members, **JAMIE CROMACK** and **SUE MONDELLO**, were chosen to participate on the Citizens' Advisory Board of Island Hospital.

Long-time branch member **GINA VAN HESS** was honored by the Anacortes City Council at its meeting on 12 November for her 35 years of service to the Anacortes Public Library. Retired Library Director Doug Eberhardt was on hand to congratulate Gina, whom he hired in 1978 at the magnificent salary of \$700.00 a month. Everhardt said that the library has about 100,000 books, many of them chosen by Gina. To make book choices, she consults reviews and many other sources. Gina's husband, Don White, and the members of the Library Foundation were on hand to add to the occasion.

Speaking of librarians, Skagit Valley College librarian **LINDA HENDRICK** led the annual Book Talk at the November meeting, as she has been doing for some 30 years. Linda chooses the topic, prepares appropriate quotes and lists of books on the topic, and leads what is always a lively discussion. This year's topic was the Civil War, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of that war. For the first time ever, Linda said, several people chose the same book: the Pulitzer Prize winning novel "The Killer Angels" by Michael Shaara, which focuses on the Battle of Gettysburg. Each of the five members who had picked this book had something unique to add to the discussion. (An overview of the books presented may be found on pages 3 and 4.)

Directory Corrections and Additions in red

Name: Carolyn Martin Address: 3220 **Oakes** Avenue

Name: Elaine Daou (Michael) **Phone: 588-8785**

New Member

Name: Lyn Carroll

Address: 410 6th Street

Phone: 703-17-8693

Email: carroll.lyn@gmail.com

Birthday: October 10

Education: B.A. Classic Humanities; B.S. Mechanical Engineering; M.A. Engineering Management; Miami Univ., Univ. of Washington and Old Dominion Univ.

Start \$mart

Negotiating salaries is a challenge for women at all stages of their careers because women are less likely than men to ask for the pay they deserve. Start \$mart salary negotiation workshops, a collaboration between AAUW and the WAGE Project, empower college women to overcome the gender wage gap and teach them to benchmark and negotiate for a fair and equitable salary when they enter the job market. AAUW has many partner colleges and universities, including Skagit Valley College and Western Washington University. More than 225 campuses throughout the United States have already hosted workshops. Recent results show that before the workshop, only 25 percent of attendees said they were confident they could negotiate for the salary and benefits that match their education and experience. That number skyrocketed to 91 percent upon completion of the workshop. Much more information is available at www.aauw.org. They even have a 'program in a box' available. If you would like to read about the Gender Pay Gap, contact Rosette as she has the free research booklets available. (293-6599).

Book Talk Review ~ Civil War prepared by Linda Hendrick and Rosette Dawson

For a video presentation go to: http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/33503230_P3Hmzq password: rgdawson

Blue Asylum by Kathy Hepinstall Rosette says not much about the war, fiction. From Amazon: Amid the mayhem of the Civil War, Virginia plantation wife Iris Dunleavy is put on trial and convicted of madness. It is the only reasonable explanation the court can see for her willful behavior, so she is sent away to Sanibel Asylum to be restored to a good, compliant woman. Iris knows, though, that her husband is the true criminal; she is no lunatic, only guilty of disagreeing with him on notions of justice, cruelty, and property.

Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverni Bonnie says **read it!** Amazon: In a life that spanned nearly a century and witnessed some of the most momentous events in American history, Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley was born a slave. A gifted seamstress, she earned her freedom by the skill of her needle, and won the friendship of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln by her devotion. A sweeping historical novel, *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* illuminates the extraordinary relationship the two women shared, beginning in the hallowed halls of the White House during the trials of the Civil War and enduring almost, but not quite, to the end of Mrs. Lincoln's days.

Coal Black Horse by Robert Olmstead Carol says **read it!** Amazon: When Robey Childs's mother has a premonition about her husband, a soldier fighting in the Civil War, she does the unthinkable: she sends her only child to find his father on the battlefield and bring him home. At fourteen, wearing the coat his mother sewed to ensure his safety—blue on one side, gray on the other— Robey thinks he's off on a great adventure. But not far from home, his horse falters and he realizes the enormity of his task. It takes the gift of a powerful and noble coal black horse to show him how to undertake the most important journey of his life: with boldness, bravery, and self-possession.



April 1865: The Month That Saved America by Jay Winik Sandy says **read it!** Amazon: One month in 1865 witnessed the frenzied fall of Richmond, a daring last-ditch Southern plan for guerrilla warfare, Lee's harrowing retreat, and then, Appomattox. It saw Lincoln's assassination just five days later and a near-successful plot to decapitate the Union government, followed by chaos and coup fears in the North, collapsed negotiations and continued bloodshed in the South, and finally, the start of national reconciliation.

Yankee Stranger by Elswyth Thane Linda says maybe if you want to see Civil War from a mid-1940's author Amazon: doesn't say anything but the reader reviews sound like me (Linda) book is not available from Amazon

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara Five readers said **YES and the critics agree**. Amazon: In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history, two armies fought for two conflicting dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises. There was love. And far more than men fell on those Pennsylvania fields. Bright futures, untested innocence, and pristine beauty were also the casualties of war. Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is unique, sweeping, unforgettable—the dramatic story of the battleground for America's destiny.

Faded Coat of Blue by Owen Parry Barbara **really liked the book** Amazon: A colorful, scrupulous and unassuming sleuth named Abel Jones is the protagonist of this solid historical thriller set during the opening months of the Civil War. When a crusading abolitionist is found murdered in 1861 in a Union encampment near Washington, Jones, a convalescing casualty of First Manassas, presently assigned to desk duty, is tapped by the Union's newest general, George B. McClellan, to discover the killer and bring him to justice.

The Civil War in 50 Objects by Harold Holzer Judi **highly recommends it** Amazon: From a soldier's diary with the pencil still attached to John Brown's pike, the Emancipation Proclamation, a Confederate Palmetto flag, and the leaves from Abraham Lincoln's bier, here is a unique and surprisingly intimate look at the Civil War. Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer sheds new light on the war by examining fifty objects from the New-York Historical Society's acclaimed collection.

Soldiers Blue and Gray by James I. Robertson, Jr. Laura Jane says **difficult to read, but worth it**. Amazon: The author "draws upon hundreds of rare and obscure sources to produce a moving chronicle of what it was like to participate in one of the bloodiest and most intense wars the world had ever seen."

Queen of the Confederacy: The Innocent Deceits of Lucy Holcombe Pickens by Elizabeth W. Lewis Jane really **liked the book** Amazon: A strong character with a fervent belief in woman's changing place, Lucy Holcombe Pickens (1832-1899) was not content to live the life of a typical nineteenth-century Southern belle. Wife of Francis Wilkinson Pickens, the secessionist governor of South Carolina on the eve of the Civil War, Lucy was determined to make her mark in the world.

The Mighty Scourge: Perspectives on the Civil War by James McPherson AAUW member's name missing – **read it** Amazon: McPherson sheds light on topics large and small, from the average soldier's avid love of newspapers to the postwar creation of the mystique of a Lost Cause in the South.

The Boy's War: Confederate & Union Soldiers Talk About the War by Jim Murphy I can't read the AAUW member's name but she said **read it** Amazon: First-hand accounts that include diary entries and personal letters describe the experiences of boys, sixteen years old or younger, who fought in the Civil War.

Heroines of Dixie: Confederate Women Tell Their Story of the War ed. By Katherine M. Jones Leslie **recommends the book** Amazon: This is a reproduction of a book published before 1923. We believe this work is culturally important, and despite the imperfections, have elected to bring it back into print as part of our continuing commitment to the preservation of printed works worldwide.