



WWURA NEWS



June 2015

www.wwu.edu/wwura

Serving Retired Faculty and Staff



From President Evelyn Ames

Welcome to WWURA members and to the new retirees who received their plaque of commendation at the Retirement Dinner on May 28 and who have joined WWURA. We look forward to your participation. A WWURA membership form is in this June Newsletter (*see page 5*). We hope you renew and that you encourage those who have an interest/association with Western Washington University to join. Additional forms are available from **Barbara Evans** (360-650-9724) or barbandhoward@comcast.net.

The WWURA Board has arranged another year of opportunities to socialize with WWURA members and to engage in activities such as WWURA luncheons (October, February, and April), playing bridge, informal dining, discussing books in the book group, attending MET HD opera, and hearing/viewing informative travelogues. We welcome your suggestions for other interest groups and ideas for travelogues. Various international travels are planned by members during the coming year. Check the calendar of scheduled events in this Newsletter.



Stone Bridge with View of Whatcom Falls

The Annual WWURA Picnic is scheduled for July 7 from 11:30-2:00 at **Whatcom Park Falls**. Reservation Form, with cost, is in this Newsletter (*page 5*) with the alphabetic list of what to bring (besides your humor and laughter). A short update of what the Board is doing will be shared by **Ron Ward**, the 2015-16 WWURA President, at the start of the picnic.

(cont'd on page 3)

Let's Picnic

Whatcom Falls Park
Wednesday, July 7, 2015, 11:30 a.m.

WWURA has again reserved the big covered shelter for our Annual Summer Picnic. The park offers opportunities for nature walks, beautiful views of Whatcom Falls and the fish hatchery.

*We encourage you to pull out your favorite recipe for a dish you would like to share—salads, hot dishes, desserts, etc. You'll find the alphabetic breakdown of which dish to bring on the Reservation Form (page 5). Chicken and coffee will be provided by WWURA and Charlie Way has again promised to bring his delicious home-made ice cream. **Please bring your own table service and your favorite non-alcoholic beverage.***

The WWURA picnic is a great time to visit, pick up your new membership cards (*if you renew by June 30th*), and enjoy the park. To locate the shelter, take the entrance closest to Bayview Cemetery on Lakeway. The shelter will be on the right side of the road when you come into the parking area.

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June 2015 Health Notes by Evelyn Ames



Feeling Lucky? Bring Serendipity to Your Life!

Serendipity is defined as luck that takes the form of finding pleasant or valuable things that are not looked for. It occurs when unexpected circumstances and an “aha” moment of insight result in a valuable, unanticipated outcome.

Wisdom to spot opportunity. Serendipity involves an element of luck that is out of one’s control but it also involves having the wisdom to spot the opportunity and act on it. For example, you notice an old friend on the street. What do you do?

For serendipity to occur, you need to stop and talk, even though you may be in a hurry. And, you need to follow up on whatever was the outcome of the conversation. Psychologist, Rickard Wiseman, found that people who were in the right place at the right time were not “luckier.” They were just quicker to spot and seize opportunities. In other words, they had the wisdom to spot the opportunity and act on it.

Suggestions for bringing serendipity into your life!

Change your environment to give some mental space! Go for a walk or bicycle ride; attend a concert; see a movie; watch children play in a park.

Vary your routine! Travel to a new place. Participate in a community event. Bellingham has lots to offer, especially this summer (e.g., Bellingham Music Festival and Marrowstone and outdoor movies at the Village Green). Participate in WWURA’s informal dining, the bridge or book club groups! Enroll in an Academy for Lifelong Learning class.

Be observant of “things” occurring around you. In other words, keep your eyes and ears open!

Draw on your previous experiences to make sense of current events and to make links as to what you have learned in the past.

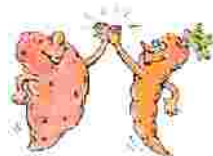
Relax and “open” your boundaries to new foods and new ideas. Tastes change over the years. What you may have disliked as a youth/young adult may be tasty as an older adult.

Go for it! Seek opportunities when something unexpected happens. Take time as well as the effort to capitalize on it.

Think of each day as having the opportunity to make new memories! Dangle your feet in the waters of a river, lake or ocean.

“Some luck lies in not getting what you thought you wanted but getting what you have, which once you have it you may be smart enough to see is what you would have wanted had you known.” ? [Garrison Keillor, Lake Wobegon](#)

Web: <https://winterautumnsummerspring.wordpress.com/2013/09/28/bring-serendipity-into-your-life/>
http://www.researchgate.net/publication/260608614_Making_my_ownLuck_Serendipity_Strategies_andHYPERLINK
"http://www.researchgate.net/publication/260608614_Making_my_ownLuck_Serendipity_Strategies_andHow_to_Support_Them_in_Digital_Information_Environments" [How_to_Support_Them_in_Digital_Information_Environments](#)



From President Evelyn Ames, *cont'd*

The first travelogue is scheduled for September 16. We start socializing at 6:30 pm with the program beginning at 7:00 pm. We encourage current members to invite retired friends to the travelogues, which are scheduled the third Wednesday of the months of November, January, March, and April. Our WWURA Newsletter includes the date, presenters, and topic. *Save October 9th for the Fall Luncheon.*

“Looking to the Future for WWURA” is scheduled for August 4 at Lakewood (Lake Whatcom). This is the annual WWURA Board planning session. We welcome members to attend and participate. The time is 10:30 am – 1:00 pm, followed by a potluck.

I look forward to meeting you at our gatherings and wish **Ron Ward** the best as WWURA President.

Square Dancing Opportunity

In the May Newsletter, Evelyn Ames wrote about the health benefits-both physical and mental of dancing. If you are not already an experienced Modern Square Dancer but would like to try that activity free, the Washington State Square Dance Festival is providing two opportunities to try it out June 19 & 20, 7 pm to 10 pm each night at the Mt. Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Street, Mt. Vernon, WA. “Dancin’ Dave Harry” will be teaching and calling both evenings. Wear comfortable clothes and comfortable shoes. All ages welcome. No experience necessary. For more information, call John 360-424-4608 or email rosie@valleyint.com. (*I'll be next door at the Skagit County Fairgrounds where experience is necessary, costumes are required, and nothing is free.*)

-Ron Ward, President Elect

JUNE INTEREST GROUPS

If you are interested in one of the groups please call or email the contact person.

BOOK GROUP--Donna Moore, 360-733-5769 <dfmoore12@gmail.com>

We will meet at 2:30 Tuesday, June 16th at the home of Donna Moore, 346 Bayside Rd.

June's book is *Honolulu* by Alan Brennert

July's book is *The Man in the Rockefeller Suit* by Mark Seal

BRIDGE GROUP--Caryl Hinckley, 360-734-3728, <carylchinckley@hotmail.com>

We will meet Tuesday, June 23, place to be announced.

INFORMAL DINING -- Janet Berg, 360-733-4654, <janetlila@hotmail.com>

Meets in small groups each month at member's homes and will resume in October 2015.

OPERA GROUP--Evelyn Ames, 360-734-3184, <evelyn.ames@wwu.edu>

This group usually attends the opera independently or in small groups. Call Evelyn if you need a ride. Metropolitan Opera HD Series for 2014-2015, check this website for cast and dates of encores: <http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/liveinhd/LiveinHD.aspx> In the left corner is Participating Theaters (click on United States and/or Canada for listing). There are 10 HD showings this season. Running times of each opera are listed at main web site.

Lincoln Theater in Mt. Vernon: <http://www.lincoltheatre.org/welcome> (click on calendar)

Check the Pickford Film Center for European opera showings: <http://pickfordfilmcenter.org/>

SKIING - Charlie Way, 360-734-0649. Over for this season.

WRITER'S GROUP - Evelyn Wright, 676-0227, <ewright410@comcast.net> Meets twice a month. The groups are kept small so there is time for reading and critiquing each other's work.

Summer Reading

Vanessa and Her Sister by Priya Parmar: a Review by Bob McDonnell

In 1905, shortly after the death of their father, the eminent literary critic Sir Leslie Stephen, his four offspring—Thoby, Vanessa, Virginia, and Adrian--moved from establishment Kensington (London) to somewhat bohemian Bloomsbury and established a kind of scandalous salon mostly frequented by Thoby's friends from Cambridge University. They were a brilliant, iconoclastic, free thinking lot who became known as the Bloomsbury group. Priya Parmar's novel chronicles much of their loves and lives from 1905 to 1912, centering its attention on the two sisters, whom we have come to know as Vanessa Bell, a painter, and the writer Virginia Woolf.

Parmar's narrative is composed of excerpts from Vanessa's fictional memoir interspersed with equally fictional letters, post cards, telegrams, and occasional rail and boat ticket of this brilliant group who were almost incessantly committing their thoughts and feelings to paper. Parmar has researched the lives of the group through their voluminous diaries, memoirs, and letters. (One of her researchers is the granddaughter of Vanessa.) Parmar's imagined narrative respects the historical framework, fitting her version within "the negative space they left behind."

In some of that space Parmar reveals a few of the complex relationships within the group. For one example, Duncan Grant, Lytton Strachey's cousin and lover, has relationships with Keynes and Addrian Stephen, among others. Ultimately, beyond the scope of this novel, he lives with Vanessa Bell. One other strand follows Lytton Strachey, writing often to Leonard Woolf, working as a colonial administrator in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), urging him to return home and save them all by marrying Virginia. Yet another strand follows Roger Fry in his loving devotion to his institutionalized wife. As a whole, the Bloomsbury group lead lives of unusual complexity, passion, and achievement.

However, the focus of the novel is on Vanessa, Virginia, and Clive Bell, a Cambridge graduate and art critic. In a reversal of the picture of the sisters we have from Virginia Woolf, Parmar casts Vanessa, two years older than Virginia, as a sensitive, loving, sheltering protector of the prodigiously talented and famously unstable Virginia. The sisters are extraordinarily close, with Virginia in some way in love with Vanessa and unable to share her. When Clive Bell proposes to Vanessa, she takes a year to answer "Yes." Having gone to her wedding night a virgin, Vanessa discovers that she responds with enthusiastic passion to her sexual relationship with husband Clive. She confides in her diary "I had not realized until now that I have been lonely all my life." In her need for primacy in Vanessa's heart Virginia employs her considerable charms to seduce Bell into a relationship that continues for years.

At the beginning of the novel Parmar creates a letter from Virginia to Vanessa—dated at the end of the time covered by the narrative—in which Virginia asks "Am I still loveable? Or have I undone that now?" The last piece of the novel is Vanessa's letter in response.

The narrative form that Parmar has set herself requires her to write credibly in the voices of some of England's brightest minds and finest writers—Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster, Lytton Strachey, Roger Fry, John Maynard Keynes. She succeeds admirably. The complex human relationships are fully imagined. The language rings with authenticity and freshness. It is a dazzling and absorbing performance.

WWURA 2015 Calendar

July 7—Annual Summer Picnic

August 4—Board Planning Meeting

September

1—Board Meeting

16—Travelogue

October

6— Board meeting

9—Fall Luncheon—Speaker, Jerry Johnson

November

3—Board Meeting

18—Travelogue

WWURA Membership Application or Renewal 2015-2016

Name _____ Spouse/Partner's Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Year Retired _____ Years of WWU Service _____ Department/Unit _____

If not a WWU retiree, check one: WWURA Friend Spouse/Partner of Retiree
 Retired from what institution/organization _____

Select Membership (includes spouse or partner)

- Contributing Membership \$ 50.00 or more
- Regular Membership \$ 25.00
- Surviving Spouse or partner \$ 6.00
- New 2015-16 Retiree \$ 5.00

Contribution to WWURA Scholarship fund \$ _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail this application and check (*made payable to WWURA*) to **WWURA Membership, c/o Barbara Evans, 715 North Garden Street, #502, Bellingham, WA 98225.** (Contributions are deductible.)

A membership table will be at the picnic. *If you renew your membership by June 30th, your membership card will be available at the picnic. If you wait to renew at the picnic, your card will be mailed to you.*

Reservation Form - WWURA Picnic on Tuesday, July 7th *Reservations Due by June 29, 2015*

Name(s) _____ Number of reservations _____

Cost: \$2 per person if bringing a dish to share that will feed 8.

Last names beginning with **A-H** bring a **Side Dish**, **I-Q** bring a **Dessert**, and **R-Z** a **Salad**

\$6 per person if not bringing a dish Amount Enclosed _____

Mail your check to **Chris Gerhold, 829 Racine St., Bellingham, WA 98225**

(Phone: Chris at 733-9265 OR email at chrisandgeorge@comcast.net if you have questions)

Tell Us, O Siri*

As technology's tide rises,
Are we losing our culture,
The old ways?

Are science, mathematics, seeing
The universe in algorithms
Drowning our stories, our books, our paintings?
Our nights by the fire?

O Siri, electronic goddess of all mysteries,
What is the future?

Remember Sioux, Algonquin, Inuit, Inca,
Navajo, Mayas, Cree Cheyenne.
Haida, Iroquois, Aztecs, Apache.
Remember the dreamtime of the Aborigines.

Polynesian boatmen sailing oceans
Stars and wind and waves their guides,
An ocean picture in their minds.

Cave paintings in France
Where bison, mammoth, deer, and elephant
Dance in the shadows of Ice Age fires.

Stonehenge, Roman roads, temples of Zeus, Astarte
Then vibrant, alive; now silent ruins.

O Siri, electronic goddess of all mysteries,
What is our future?

Once teeming with poetry, commerce and God,
Cities, cars, spaceships to the moon.
Orchards, gardens, houses, schools,
Another layer in Earth's archeology.

O Siri, electronic goddess of all mysteries,
Is this our future?

Lynne Masland 2015

**Siri is a part of Apple's iOS application; she serves as a personal assistant and "knowledge navigator." Siri has appeared as a voice in several movies where young men fall in love with her on their iPhones. In this poem, she is invoked as a goddess/seer.*

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