



# WWURA NEWS



March 2016

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Serving Retired Faculty and Staff



## WWURA Spring Luncheon

**Friday, April 8, 2016**

Northwood Hall, 11:30 a.m.  
3240 Northwest Avenue

Rosemary Scott Vohs has been a professional storyteller and performer for over 20 years telling tales from all over the world and most especially from the British Isles. She was classically trained in performance arts in her native England where she began presenting literature at the age of six with the London Academy for Music and Dramatic art. As a performance storyteller and narrator, Rosemary is frequently featured at festivals, school arts programs and musical events. She is also a popular and entertaining speaker and communication consultant. Rosemary teaches a variety of courses in storytelling, children's literature and public speaking at Western Washington University where she has taught since 1985. She is a founding member of the Bellingham Storytellers Guild and was co-producer of the Bellingham Storytelling Festival and Tellabration from 1999-2009.

*Don't miss this entertaining speaker  
Send in your Reservation Form (page 5)  
Before Monday, April 4th*

## WWURA Calendar

### March 2016

16—Travelogue

### April 2016

5—Board Meeting

8—WWURA Lunch, **Rosemary Scott Vohs**

20—Travelogue

### May 2016

3— Board Meeting

## WWURA Travelogue

### Explore the Intriguing Basque Country

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

6:30 p.m. socializing; 7:00 p.m. presentation  
Squalicum Yacht Club  
2633 South Harbor Loop Rd.

From its language to its food, history, and culture, the Basque country of southwestern France and northern Spain along the Bay of Biscay is unique. Explore this fascinating culture on Wednesday, March 16 with **Evelyn Ames** and **Lynne Masland**. From Bayonne and St. Jean de Luz to Pamplona, San Sabastian, Guernica and Bilbao you'll learn the history of the Basque people, walk along the pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago, visit ancient whaling and fishing towns and share dinners with the men of the Basque gastronomy clubs. You'll hear the music of the Basques from an evening concert in San Sebastian, learn about Pamplona's running of the bulls, made famous in Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, and see contemporary art at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

Members whose last name begins with **M thru Z** please bring a dessert to share. WWURA provides coffee and tea; some members bring wine. Please contact one of the board members if you need a ride.

A small donation of \$2 per person, \$3 per couple is requested to cover room rental & beverages.

## Inside:

Bellingham at Home	p. 2, 3
Interest Groups	p. 3
Writers Group	p. 4
President's Note	p. 4
<b>Reservation Form-Spring Lunch</b>	p. 5
Book Review	p. 5
Lou Lippman Speaks	p. 6

## **Bellingham At Home: Your Home May be Your Best Retirement Housing Option**

Home is where the heart is, but staying in your own home can get difficult over time. Bellingham residents will soon be able to get help coping with the demands of living independently. Bellingham At Home is a membership-driven and volunteer-powered virtual village, marshalling area resources to help older adults meet the challenges of staying in their homes. “We think aging is ultimately a team sport,” say the organizers of Bellingham At Home. “We’re here to help.” At this year’s *Housing Options as We Age* event at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center, volunteers with this new community-based effort explained how the local village seeks to empower older adults to stay active and engaged while enjoying the comfort and safety of living in their own homes and neighborhoods.

Bellingham At Home is modeled on the many successful grass-roots virtual villages across America that coordinate access to affordable services and volunteer-provided support such as transportation, health and wellness support, home maintenance, social and educational activities, as well as a broad range of day-to-day tasks. They also offer a directory of vetted, discounted service providers. There are more than 190 villages in operation across North America, with almost as many more in development, according to the national Village to Village Network (<http://vtvnetwork.org>). Bellingham At Home is a member of the national group and is taking advantage of the experience of other villages to develop our local organization. Members of the leadership council were inspired at the national gathering of village representatives in Seattle in October, but we were reminded, “When you’ve seen one village, you’ve seen *one* village” -- every village is based on the needs and resources of its own community.

Our village is tailored to fit the needs of *our* community. Bellingham At Home’s leaders, all volunteers, have been laying the groundwork for the organization over the past year. Task forces of volunteers are fine-tuning our understanding of community needs and defining the initial services and programs to be offered. This is a work in progress, and will respond to input from members, volunteers and the community at large. In a nutshell, Bellingham At Home provides its members

A single number to call for a helping hand

A chance to talk with someone who cares about you as a member

Referrals to vetted service providers with preferred terms and rates for our members

Access to service volunteers for helping hand chores and transportation

Participation in social events

A chance to volunteer for others, too! An important goal of Bellingham At Home is to form a community-within-a-community of friendships and mutual support.

**Bellingham At Home is scheduled for launch in June 2016.** Membership is open to anyone 50 years and older who resides in Bellingham or an adjoining neighborhood. Several levels of membership are available, starting at \$350 per year, and all include Bellingham Senior Center Membership. Charter Membership applications will be accessible April 1 – June 1 on our website ([bellinghamathome.org](http://bellinghamathome.org)). These provide an opportunity to lock in the annual fee for the first 3 years. After June 1, when Bellingham At Home services launch, regular membership prices will be in effect. **To learn more about the details of the Member Benefits and Fees** interested persons are invited to attend one of our upcoming presentations: at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center (315 Halleck Street), April 27 at 10:45am, or May 25 at 1pm; or at the Center for Spiritual Living (2224 Yew Street Road), May 4 at 6pm.

Bellingham will be the focus of village operations initially, but other Whatcom County communities will be able to take advantage of administrative and technical resources to form their own village organizations. Bellingham At Home is a program of the Whatcom Council on Aging, and shares resources with this non-profit organization. Funding for development and operation depends heavily on individual contributions and grants.

## Bellingham at Home, cont'd

**Community involvement is needed!** Anyone interested in helping develop our village by serving on a task force, receiving more information about membership, delivering discounted professional services, volunteering to provide support services to members, joining the mailing list to be informed of future events and opportunities, or making a financial contribution is invited to contact us at [info@BellinghamAtHome.org](mailto:info@BellinghamAtHome.org).



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### March 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](mailto:dfmoore12@gmail.com)>

We will meet at 2:30 Tuesday, March 15th at the home of Barbara Davidson, 806 17th St., phone 734-8782.

March's book is *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler

April's book is *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

**BRIDGE GROUP**--Nicholas Bullat, 360-770-7270 <[gmb.maestro@q.com](mailto:gmb.maestro@q.com)>

The Bridge Group will meet at 1:30 pm, Tuesday, March 22nd. Place to be announced.

**INFORMAL DINING** -- Janet Berg, 360-733-4654, <[janetlila@hotmail.com](mailto:janetlila@hotmail.com)>

**OPERA GROUP**--Evelyn Ames, 360-734-3184, <[evelyn.ames@wwu.edu](mailto:evelyn.ames@wwu.edu)>

Web site for The MET HD: <https://www.metopera.org/Season/InCinemas/>.

and for the Skagit Opera: <http://skagitopera.org/performances/>

Locations for MET HD: Barkley Film Center and Lincoln Theater in Mt. Vernon. Skagit Opera is at McIntyre Hall in Mt. Vernon. At various times the Pickford Film Center offers opera, ballet, and theater productions from Europe venues.

Schedule for Met HD

April 16, *Roberto Devereux* by Gaetano Donizetti. Encore April 20

April 30, *Elektra* by Richard Strauss. Encore May 4.

**SKIING** - Charlie Way, 360-734-0649 <[cbway@aol.com](mailto:cbway@aol.com)> [Mt. Baker is open!](#)

[Call Charlie if you are interested.](#)

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

We are thinking about adding a play reading interest group. If this sounds like fun to you, Call or email Barb Evans, 650-9724 or <[barbandhoward@comcast.net](mailto:barbandhoward@comcast.net)>

## Writers Group

### On an Airplane with a Buddhist Monk

by Lynne Masland

It was a dark winter night on a United flight from New York to Seattle. My seat mate was a young Buddhist monk dressed in saffron robes. He sat quietly, hands folded, while I read my book and wished the long flight was over.

Somewhere west of Chicago, we hit turbulence. The plane began to pitch, bucking, creaking up and down. The seat belt sign flashed on; from the flight deck came warnings we'd encountered severe weather that would last for some time. The plane slowed, the thumps became swoops, long and nauseating.

I was nervous. Below were the valleys and mountains of eastern Wyoming. Sleet pelted the windows. I shifted in my seat, clutched the arm rests. My daughters were teenagers, home waiting for me. I hoped I'd make it.

The monk opened his eyes and smiled at me. "When you're frightened or worried," he said softly, "close your eyes and picture something beautiful -- a flower. Keep seeing the flower, its beauty. It will calm your mind."

I closed my eyes. Into my mind came the vision of a chrysanthemum, the kind in Japanese paintings with long curved petals. This one was red and bronze. I focused on this flower, examining, contemplating, oblivious to everything but that flower.

The plane stopped bucking.. The pilot announced they'd climbed higher, found calmer air. He expected a smooth flight into SeaTac.

I've never forgotten that long-ago flight and the monk. Sometimes my flower is yellow, sometimes white. Usually a chrysanthemum in a dark vase decorated with gold. Occasionally, it will be a rose -- pink, red, yellow, orange. My mind brings me the flower. Sometimes I use the flower to go back to sleep at night. Sometimes to calm my mind during the day.

Always the flower brings me peace.

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### President Ron Ward's Note for March

March 1<sup>st</sup> certainly came in like a lion, with fierce winds, torrential rain, and threatening skies. But things are sure to look up with daylight savings time, St. Patrick's Day, the spring equinox, and Passover/Easter just ahead.

In this issue we highlight two interesting events: our Wednesday March 16 Travelogue about the Basque region of Spain with Evelyn Ames and Lynne Masland presenting at the Squalicum Yacht Club, and our Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> Spring Luncheon with British storyteller Rosemary Scott Vohs at Northwood Hall. Be sure to find the Reservation Form and mail it in along with your check by the deadline.

We enjoyed Richard Mollette's February talk on colleges in Colonial America and thank him for speaking. We continue to accept donations to our Scholarship Fund for Western students (send a check made out to WWURA and designated for scholarships to Barbara Evans/ 715 N. Garden St. #502/ Bellingham, WA 98225); and we also seek volunteers to fill some positions in WWURA for the rest of this year. If you'd like to serve on a committee, become our Historian, or throw your hat into the ring for President-Elect, contact me at [ron.ward740@gmail.com](mailto:ron.ward740@gmail.com) or by phone at (425) 299-4924.

**Reservation Form**  
**WWURA Spring Luncheon**  
**11:30 a.m., April 8, 2016**  
**Northwood Hall, 3240 Northwest Avenue**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address or Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 members, \$18 for non-member)

**Reservation Deadline is Monday April 4, 2016**

Make your **check payable to WWURA** and mail with this form to **Chris Gerhold, 829 Racine, Bellingham, WA, 98229**. Questions ? Call Chris at 733-9265.

Need a ride? Check here \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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**Book Review** Missoula: **Rape and the Justice System in a College Town**, by Jon Krakauer: a Review

Jon Krakauer we know from previous bestsellers—**Into the Wild, Into Thin Air, Under the Banner of Heaven**, to name a few. This time he tackles a topic that is more complicated, more tangled, than the others. The result is a well-researched, uneven, shocking, and important book.

Krakauer's interest in the topic of acquaintance rape began when a friend revealed to him and his wife , years after the events, that she had been raped, first by a family friend and second by a family member. Her report of the ensuing years of confusion, self-doubt, and pain impelled Krakauer to try to understand. That lead him to Missoula, where he followed the stories of five young women who reported being raped by acquaintances, some of whom were members of the U. of Montana football team, the Grizzlies.

A series of stories about rape on campus had appeared in **The Missoulian**, the Missoula daily newspaper. **The New York Times** and **The Wall Street Journal** picked up the story, and Krakauer was drawn to Missoula to investigate. He interviewed everyone who would talk to him. The result is our book. Krakauer writes tellingly the story of each of the young women, from "the event itself" through all the twists and painful turns of reporting the event and filing charges, police interviews, coping with family and public reaction, trials, and in two cases university disciplinary hearings. His often excruciatingly clinical detail derives from his interviews and from the public records. He follows each young woman through the entire torturous process—including extensive re-creation of trials through the verdict, guilty or not guilty. Along the way, the US Department of Justice launched an investigation, with which the University and the Missoula police department co-operated fully and benefitted greatly. The Missoula County attorney's office refused its co-operation.

Let us not forget the Grizzlies. The U. of Montana is proud of its football team, which has an enthusiastic fan base in Missoula and throughout Montana. Because most of the accused were Grizzlies and one was a quarterback, the fan base was aroused. Public controversy was inflamed. Shockingly, the re-appointment of a member of the Board of Regents who had written critically of the actions of some Grizzlies was rejected by the Montana senate.

Krakauer places much of the blame for "the rape crisis in Missoula" on the county attorney's office. He quotes an investigator for the Department of Justice who "noted that the county attorney's office refused to prosecute some sexual-assault cases even when detectives provided prosecutors with a confession or an eyewitness." No wonder the young women went through hell.

**Missoula** will repay a read.

## Lou Lippman to Speak

### A Lifetime of Humor: Puns Meet Science

What does a high school essay, the USA bicentennial, Edward L. Stratemeyer, and *Worm Runner's Digest* have to do with the development of a collection of original stories? Get answers to those questions and even more when Lou Lippman discusses his book, *Wince A Pun On Thyme—Scientifically Crafted Tales*, **Wednesday, April 13th, 4:00 pm in Special Collections of the WWU library.**

*Wince A Pun on Thyme* is a collection of 176 original vignettes, each culminating in a pun or spoonerism. The puns range from good (elicit a small groan) to excellent (produce a large groan and perhaps a chuckle). The author's experience in writing research abstracts can be sensed in the moderately tight writing style; it is not breezy reading, but is aimed at the sophisticated lover of language who is acquainted with familiar phrases, clichés, and aphorisms. The stories are unrelated to one another and with few exceptions, are no longer than a single page—making the book easy to set down and come back to. It is ideal for people with limited reading time, e.g., those with busy, complex lives that are full of interruptions; those who seek small doses of levity or are looking for an amusing brain exercise. The book features a foreword that describes how an intuition about enhancing humor value of fables led to a series of empirical studies. The resulting evidence guided the structure of these tales—hence the reason for calling them “scientifically engineered.”

**Note:** Lou taught experimental psychology courses at Western Washington University for 42 years.. His research area focused on learning with occasional excursions into other topics, including sport psychology and humor.— He's also a fantastic pianist!

Western Washington University  
Retirement Assoc. ( WWURA)  
516 High Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225-9020