Annual Business Meeting
Monday, April 13, at 1:30

Our Annual Business Meeting will be held on the second Monday in April at the UW Club. The membership will be voting for a new board and we will announce the results of the vote on the revision of the Bylaws. We require a quorum in order to take any action, so be sure to come. Program Chairs Esther Neeser and Linda Rhines have arranged for a special program with Humanities Washington.

“I’ll Fly Away:
A Sojourn through Poetry and Spirituals”
by Gloria Burgess

Award-winning poet, performer and distinguished scholar Gloria Burgess (left) explores the rich, beautiful heritage of spirituals and poetry from the African-American tradition in a spirited sojourn through words and music. This interactive presentation covers the sometimes hidden meanings of specific spirituals and poems, including how the art helped people cope as they were forcibly transported, under unspeakable conditions, from one continent to another.

Dr. Burgess obtained an M.A. in speech communication and theater from the University of Michigan, then attended the University of Southern California, where she received a Ph.D. in performance studies. She also holds an M.B.A. in organizational behavior and design and information systems. Ms. Burgess has taught at the University of Washington, Seattle University, University of Southern California and Howard University while publishing her own poetry and serving diverse communities as a coach and consultant.

This program is open to the public and is sponsored by the Humanities Washington Speaker’s Bureau: “Feeding inquiring minds through engaging discussions”. Humanities Washington is the state’s flagship non-profit for promoting and providing programs based in the humanities. Since 1973, Humanities Washington has provided a rich array of programs, exhibits, and experiences to hundreds of thousands of people across the state. As Washington State’s affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Washington supports and partners with a wide network of communities, organizations, and individuals offering a variety of programs and events.
**Spring Luncheon**
Wednesday, May 13
at 11:30 am
at the
Seattle Yacht Club

Our speaker will be Anita Ramasastry, UW Professor of Law and Director of Sustainable International Development Graduate Program. Her areas of expertise include Anti-corruption, Business and Human Rights, and International Trade.

The title of her talk is: “Is There a Human Right to Be Free from Corruption?”

**Coming Soon To a Mailbox Near You**

**Bylaws Ballot**

The UWFA Board has worked since August revising our Bylaws. The two main changes are a new definition of “Active” membership and a reduction of the term of commitment to serve on the Board from two years to one year. The reasoning is as follows:

Currently, we have “Active” and “Friends” membership. Over the years, many “Friends” have been among our most “active” members, and it seems only fair (and accurate) to grant them the status of Active membership. The Board proposes to have only two categories of Membership, Active and Honorary. Active Members may be UW-affiliated or not, as long as dues are paid. Honorary Members include the spouse of the President, the Regents and their spouses, and so on, who do not pay dues. No changes are proposed for Honorary Membership.

It has become increasingly difficult to interest our ever busy members in serving a two-year term on the Board of Directors. By shortening the commitment to one year (always with encouragement to continue for additional terms), we hope to increase the pool of candidates to give more members an opportunity to serve on the board.

Every paid member will soon receive a complete copy of the proposed changes and a mail-in ballot to record your vote. We need a quorum to validate the vote. Please read the proposal and mail your ballot by April 1, 2015. The results will be announced at Business Meeting on April 13.

Thank you,
Sue Christian
Bylaws Committee Chair

**Interest Group News**

**Scandinavian Cultural Exchange**

According to co-chair Lois Arne, the SCE (Scandinavian Cultural Exchange) group gathers on the second Wednesday of the month for three purposes: to “nourish our minds, spirits, and bodies through various cultural activities”. They accomplish this by engaging in lively conversation and laughter, forming friendships, and dining at interesting restaurants, among them Sorrento Hotel Hunt Club, Monte Carlo Hotel Sazarac Restaurant, the Columbia Tower Club and more.

Co-chair Lois Arne reports that they enjoy activities like a visit to the Bullitt Center (“most green commercial building in the world”), a tour of St. James Cathedral, concerts, and museums. SCE has about 15 active members and would welcome new ones who want to come and join in the fun.

Our speaker for the April Dinner/Lecture is UW Professor Emeritus of Biology Gordon Orians. In his talk and in his most recent book *Snakes, Sunrises, and Shakespeare* he explores the role of evolution in human responses to the environment, from emotions to aesthetics. Professor Orians discusses how our emotional lives are shaped by decisions our ancestors made centuries ago on African savannas. He explains why our parks and gardens mimic the savannas; why we are an unusually musical species; why we have discriminating palates for wine, strong reactions to some odors; and why we enjoy classifying almost everything.

Prof. Orians (right) received his PhD in Biology from UC Berkeley and has spent his entire career at UW. His research interests have included topics in behavioral ecology, such as the selection of habitat, mates and prey. He has applied his scientific studies to social problems and was Director of the UW’s Institute for Environmental Studies for 10 years. He has also served on the boards of the World Wildlife Fund, the Washington chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and Audubon Alaska.

Come and be fascinated by how we experience the natural world and how we relate to each other.
UWRA Travelogue Series

Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands
March 18
By Bill and Audrey Weitkamp

Bill and Audrey Weitkamp, veteran travelers, will show slides and talk about their recent trip to Ecuador. Most of their vacation in Ecuador was spent in the Galápagos, where having to step around a four-foot-long marine iguana sprawled at the beginning of a trail was typical of their experiences. Their adventures included Quito, the second-largest city. Their Road Scholar visit to the islands was followed by a Road Scholar extension program to the northern Andes and small villages surrounding Quito. Experiences on the trip include rides over 14,000 foot passes, hikes in cloud forests and stays in historic haciendas.

Truly a memorable trip!

Palau:
An Inside View of an Island Paradise
April 15
By Carolyn Crockett and Bob Brooks

Carolyn Crockett and Bob Brooks trip took them to Hawaii where Bob grew up and then to Palau, a tiny island country that is part of Micronesia. It is a presidential republic in free association with the U.S. In Palau they visited relatives, which gave them opportunity to experience the Palauan culture in depth. They spent time scuba diving, snorkeling and exploring prehistoric and more recent Palauan cultural sites, finishing off most nights witnessing spectacular sunsets.

Bootfahren auf der Elbe:
Traveling by boat on the Elbe
May 20
By Ron and Barbara Hammond

River cruising through Prague, the Bastei, Dresden, Torgau, Wittenberg, and Tangermundi.

Joan Bowers

Save the Date

Fall Reception
October 5, 2015 at 1:30
At University Unitarian Church

Interest Group News

Gallery Goers

Chair Mimi Wagar organized an interesting outing to the Nordic Heritage Museum in January followed by lunch at the Ray’s Café. The special exhibit featured wonderful water color paintings by expeditionary artist Maria-Coryell Martin and photographs by Finish photographer Tiina Itkonen who accompanied UW Marine Mammal Biologist Dr. Kristin Laidre to Baffin Bay (Western Greenland) in spring of 2013.

February’s outing will be a tour of the exhibit “Indigenous Beauty at SAM.

Interest Group Chair Lunch

The activities provided by and the friendships formed at our many Interest Groups are the heart of the UWFA. Interest Group Chairs were invited to lunch by Traudi Krausser and the Board after the February board meeting to recognize them for their work and dedication.

Downhillers: New Interest Group?

We take the ski bus from Seattle to Stevens Pass every Thursday in January and February and have lots of fun, great skiing, and get good exercise. Stevens Pass has ski runs for all levels and even if this winter has had little snow, there is still plenty for skiing. If you would like to join us, please contact Anni Fuller anniflr@aol.com.

Anni Fuller

Downhillers Vera Wellner, Marie Albrecht, and Anni Fuller.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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*A busy winter at Base Camp with the Tuesday Trekkers and at the February Board Meeting.*