



South Whidbey @ Home

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WINTER 2016-2017 NEWSLETTER

Many Thanks

- To the parishioners of **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church** in Freeland for inviting SW@Home to one of their Mission Sundays, and donating \$860,
- To **Trinity Lutheran Church** in Freeland for including SW@Home in their Senior Ministry Fair, and for their second donation of \$1,000
- To **Langley United Methodist Church** for providing space for our monthly board meetings
- To those who responded to our fall appeal for more Supporting Members. The lucky winners of the drawing for a one-year pass to The Clyde were Karen Vanderbilt and Paul Mathews.

Contact us at info@swathome.org if you'd like to arrange for SW@Home to make a presentation to your church or civic group.

President's Report

We are all so happy with how our first six months have gone. There are still some rough spots, but they are to be expected with a new organization run wholly by volunteers, and both our members and our volunteers have been very understanding about small mistakes.

As of January 5, we have 63 Full Member households (those getting volunteer service) and 46 Supporting Member households—a total of 158 people. We have trained and vetted 85 volunteers who answered 380 service requests in our first six months. In addition, our volunteer call managers have put in 1,000 hours staffing the office, and our board members have lost count of the time they've spent.

We added three new board members to the six who got this thing started. The board is now composed of Allan Ament, Larry Durocher, Sharon Emerson, Paul Goldfinger, Doug Kelly, Janice O'Mahony, Miriam Raabe, Marcia Wiley, and me, Lynn Willeford. Feel free to ask any of us your questions about SW@Home.

What do our members and volunteers say about SW@Home?

"What a godsend! I've had two handyman volunteers help me in the last few months and now there are now my list-to-fix is much, much shorter! From replacing a rusty old gate latch, to getting a tricky pilot light lit on my living room fireplace before the cold weather, replacing a leaky outdoor hose bib and fixing a broken shower handle in time before company — your volunteers knocked off some projects that have frustrated me far too long! I also really appreciated the spirit with which they showed up at my door and really wanted to help and offer their skills. Thanks, SW@H for being

there for me to call. In just an hour or two your volunteer handymen fixed months of frustration!”
Linda Schwarz, member

“As a volunteer, I feel I’ve been appreciated and I’ve enjoyed getting things done. One member gave me bay leaves from her garden, and another baked me cookies.”—*John Henderson, volunteer*
[Note: volunteers cannot accept payment, but a gratitude cookie never hurt anyone.]

“I’ve had three different SW@Home volunteers help me with repairs and garden chores and everyone has been right on time and perfect.”—*Sylvia Hollis, member*

Fall Events

Our Program Committee is working hard to put on events that engage members and develop the SW@Home Community. They want to have several regular monthly events that members can build into their calendars as well as a few of non-repeating special programs each quarter.



A monthly board game get-together has proved popular and often hilarious as people let their inner kid out to play.



A monthly lunch at Neil’s Clover Patch started in November with the topic of “What brought you to Whidbey?” Each month will have a different topic as we will get to know each other by talking about issues, experiences, and feelings.

Upcoming events

Monthly board game get-togethers

On the first Friday of every month, join other members for an afternoon of light-hearted games in the back room of the Commons Coffee House in Langley.

- **When:** From 2- 4pm on Jan 6, Feb 3, & Mar 3
- **Where:** The South Whidbey Commons Cafe, 124 2nd St in Langley, back room.



Monthly 3rd Monday Lunch Bunch

On the third Monday of every month, join other members for lunch and discussion of a special topic.

- **When:** From 1- 3pm on Jan 16, Feb 20, & Mar 20
- **Where:** Neil's Clover Patch Café on Hwy 525 next to The Goose Grocery Store



Tap into the Fountain of Youth-- Exercise

Join respected personal trainer Adam Fawcett to learn about Fitness Over 50.

- **When:** 3pm on Friday, Jan 13
- **Where:** Vibrant Fitness Studio, Island County Fairgrounds in Langley.



Celebrate the Village movement with Atul Gawande

Atul Gawande, the renowned author of *Being Mortal*, will be the keynote speaker at a 15th anniversary celebration of the founding of Beacon Hill Village and the Village Movement. His talk on the value of community and opportunities that open up as we grow older will be broadcast by live video to more than a hundred villages nationwide. Join thousands of village members across the country to celebrate the movement that has improved the lives of so many. This event is open to the public, so bring your friends and family.



- **When:** Monday Feb 13 1:45-3:15pm (broadcast starts at 2p)
- **Where:** Community/Media Conference room in the Whidbey Telecom building, 1651 Main Street in Freeland (next to Webb's)

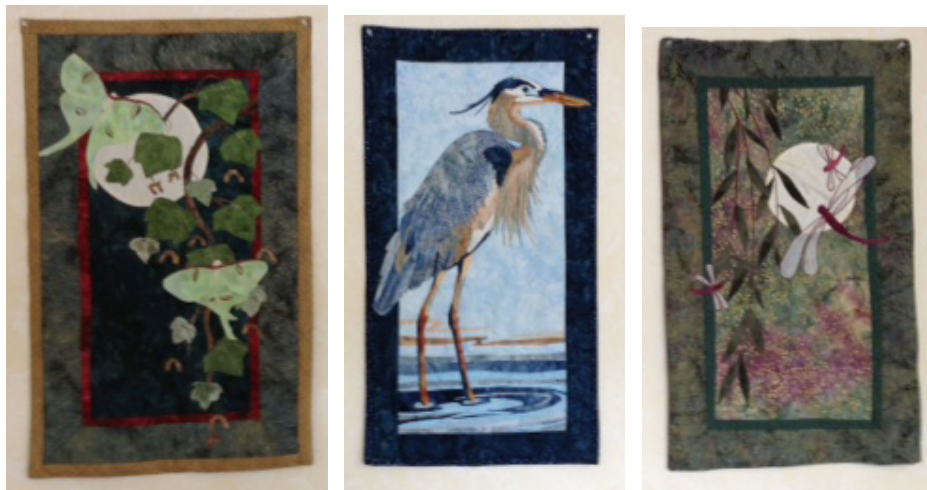
And more...

Other monthly and special events are in the works, but the details aren't worked out yet.



A call for members with artistic talent

If you've been into the SW@Home office in the last few months, you may have noticed the beautiful wall hangings on the north wall. They were graciously loaned to us by Deon Kane, long-time quilter and one of our members. We would love to have this wall be an exhibit space for a different artist/member each quarter. We know we have many talented members with such gifts. If that describes you, or someone you know, please contact us at 360-331-7441. Don't be shy!



Last but not least

Is your service business looking for a more customers? SW@Home members often call us for referrals to one of our vetted businesses, many of which offer small discounts or other perks to our members. You can download the application form at our website, www.swathome.org, under the “Businesses” tab.

Volunteering: Drop by our office across from the Freeland Café any time to pick up a volunteer application, or download and print one out from our website www.swathome.org. We could really use:

- A **graphic designer** (amateur or pro)—we need very little of your time, we promise!
- **More drivers from the Clinton and Freeland** areas.

Membership: Applications for full or supporting memberships, as well as lots of other information, can be found at our website www.SWatHome.org. You can also find us on Facebook or call us at 331-1971 or drop by our office at 1635 Main Street in Freeland.