Companions & Care

This month’s luncheon is sponsored by Companions & Care Senior Services, the eldercare division of Secret Harbor, the non-profit agency that has supported children, youth and families since 1947. With their expanded mission, they are helping seniors and people with disabilities live safely and comfortably in their own homes, while giving their families peace of mind as they juggle their many other responsibilities. To learn more, visit www.companionsandcare.org or call 293-5151.

Donna Seebo has been leading seminars, workshops, panels, and speaking to groups of all sizes for over twenty years. Entering her eleventh year as host of her radio show, “The Donna Seebo Show,” her personal goal is to empower others. In her presentation, “Obstacles and the Entrepreneur” she will shed light on strategies from business owners who found success against all odds.

After lunch, chamber member Vicki Stasch will lead a networking activity entitled “4 Corners.” This activity’s goal is to help you discover the unknown layers of your fellow members and their business you may not readily know. Bring your marketing materials!

The April 12 lunch will be provided by Westside Pizza and will cost $15. Please RSVP to the chamber via our evite sent out through ChamberMaster today. Remember to bring a gift for the give-away! The Anacortes Lutheran Church is located at 22nd & O.

H2O

You are cordially invited on April 19 to H2O for the chamber’s next business after hours, complimentary hors d’oeuvres and happy hour prices will be offered 5:30 pm until 7pm. H2O is Anacortes’ newest restaurant and club in downtown Anacortes. They are located at 314 Commercial Ave and are open every day at 3pm Thursday–Sunday.

H2O is the new venture from Allen Rhoades, Rick Star and Paul Wasik of the Rockfish Grill and the Anacortes Brewery. Renovation of the old Watertown space was extensive, floor to ceiling—the most common reaction folks have had upon walking into the new place is “wow”!

They feature an amazing selection of craft cocktails using unique house infused liquors, such as strawberry vodka, lavender gin, jalapeno tequila, orange cognac plus an above average selection of well liquors at reasonable prices and many boutique micro distillery products. H2O offers the largest and best selection of craft brewed micro beer in the county.

Live music features the top talent in the northwest and takes advantage of H2O’s dance floor. The restaurant’s open lay-out is perfect for interaction with old friends or for meeting new ones, or grab an intimate corner if you’d prefer a quieter evening.

H2O hosts large groups celebrating a variety of occasions. Contact them at 360-755-3956 or www.AnacortesH2O.com for more information, their complete menu and events calendar.

Bring a gift for the give-away! RSVP to the chamber at 293-7911 today (or online!).
Spring is finally here—and the activities that go with it. The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival will run the entire month of April. The Spring Wine Festival (a Tulip Festival sanctioned and chamber produced event), is held on April 14 at the Port Event Center—tickets are flying out the door so buy yours today. New this year is a wine pairing dinners and featured pours at our amazing restaurants. Check out the www.anacortes.org for details.

The Anacortes Quilt Walk runs throughout the month, put on by Fidalgo Island Quilters Guild, this event takes you through businesses downtown to view hundreds of quilts and wearable art. Also produced by the Guild is the Anacortes Quilt Show—April 6 and 7 at the Anacortes Middle School (learn more about both on page 3).

The Anacortes Salmon Derby is this weekend—this event always sells out early, but do head on down to Cap Sante Boat Haven to check out the catch. The Annual Depot Art Garden Fair is the 28–29, offering a wide arrange of items for your garden this spring.

Our events and communications coordinator, Cecilie Miller, is busy finalizing plans for the Waterfront Festival with the engaged committee. As a reminder—we moved the festival to June 2 and 3 in order to accommodate TrawlerFest. The Waterfront Festival has a few great new features you will learn about next month—but one exciting new event is a milk carton derby for the kids (see page 4). Our poster unveiling event was once again incredible and this year’s poster is spectacular (check it out on page 5). The Port of Anacortes is now producing the Waterfront Festival Kick-off Dinner, held on June 1 in the Port Transit Shed Event Center, always a fun event on the beautiful Guemes Channel.

New billboard art is in place—thanks to two of our chamber members for stepping up to act as models (Colleen Craig—Windermere and Nels Strandberg—Strandberg Construction) as we showcase the Spring Wine Festival and Anacortes as a dining destination. The Anacortes Restaurant Trades Group is partnering with the Anacortes Farmers Market to produce Taste Anacortes. Differing from past Tastes, this one will be held at the Depot Art and Community Center on September 15—save the date and keep watch for more exciting news on this event.

A group of 40 Anacortesians met up with 12 San Juan Islanders to head to Sidney for the opening of the Ferry Run on Sunday, March 25. This is always a fun celebration between the sister cities and a great day on the water for all.

Finally, last month you received our 2011 Annual Report—the first one produced in almost two decades. This was a great project for chamber staff to undertake; we were so amazed by how much a volunteer organization can accomplish in one year. We want to thank our design partner, Linda McGuire (Bayshore Office Products) for her creativity and guidance. We hope you enjoyed reading it and we are truly grateful for your continued investment in the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce—together we get things done!
The Fidalgo Island Quilters (FIQ) will host its biennial Quilt Show, April 6–7, at the Anacortes Middle School. Hours are 10am to 6pm on Friday and 10am to 5pm on Saturday. Admission is $5. Children 12 and under are free.

The Quilt Walk will run the entire month of April. Downtown Anacortes businesses display quilts during regular hours. Quilt Walk maps are available at the Visitor Information Center and all participating merchants.

2012 marks 30 years of service to the community. FIQ is a registered non-profit organization whose mission is to support the Skagit County Domestic Violence Center with donations of hand-made quilts for children. New at the show this year is an expanded demonstration area, which will include a hands-on quilt block activity for kids. Completed quilts made by young people will also be on display.

The 2012 Show will offer a wide range of work, from traditional utility quilts to sophisticated art quilts. Featured Artists Joanne Ellsworth and Kathy Howe will be available to answer questions about their quilting journeys. The Style Show at 1pm on Saturday will feature artistic, fashionable garments and accessories created by guild members. The Style Show is included in the $5 admission fee.

Guild members meet the first Monday of the month at 12:30pm and 7pm at New Hope Christian Fellowship on 35th Street. Contact President Linda Ballard, laballard@wavecable.com for more information. Guests are always welcome.

John comes to Skagit Publishing and the Anacortes American with 13 years of newspaper advertising experience, most recently with the Seattle Times. He grew up on a wheat farm in eastern Washington, so he was attracted to the small town feel of Anacortes. He was shocked, however, to discover how many businesses and entrepreneurs there are in town.

He’s enjoyed getting to know many of the merchants, owners and employees. He’s looking forward to meeting ALL of them. He finds satisfaction in helping develop programs for his customers that work, whether it be increasing sales, bringing in new customers or creating brand awareness.

John and his wife Melodee have been married 34+ years. They have 3 children and 3 granddaughters. He is a WSU graduate and is an avid Cougar fan and supporter. He likes all sports, especially golf. He enjoys gardening, cooking, travel and walks on the beach with his wife.

2012 Ambassadors

Josh Baldwin—Quantum Construction
Carla Cummins—All About Honeymoons & Vacations
Lara Dunning—Gems, LLC
Jim Gordon—Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.
Jack Hamilton—Labor Ready, Inc.
Barry Harter—Central Payment Corporation
Jan Hersey—Biz Point Communications
Debra Jones—Individual Member
Kari Kennedy—KeyBank
Tara Milas—Massage Therapy
Yolonda Norman de Fernandez—Amigo Trails—Copper Canyon Specialist
Leileah Petty—Farmers Insurance
Jeffery Pleet, CLU, ChFC—Edward Jones—Jeffery Pleet
Therese Rudzis—Individual Member
Mary Staley—Marketing with Mary
Sandy Swartos—Steam Interactive, LLC
Boyd Veer—Seaside Autobody & Accessories
John Williams—Skagit Publishing

The 4th Annual Spring Wine Festival is almost here! 30 wonderful regional wineries to try and this year two are offering something different, their refreshing ciders (along with their wine offerings)! Six fabulous local restaurants will be offering up tasty bites to tempt your pallet; A Town Bistro, Frida’s Gourmet Mexican Cuisine, Gere-A-Deli, Le Crema Cakes, Swinomish Casino & Lodge—13moons, and the Majestic Inn & Spa. Purchase your tickets now and avoid the lines, simply go to our website www.anacortes.org, click on Spring Wine Festival and hit the Eventbrite button. Saturday, April 14, 2012. 12:00 pm–4:30 pm. Must be 21+.

The festival would like to thank the following sponsors:

**Magnum:**
Tesoro Refining and Marketing Company

**Carafe:**
Anacortes American
Cornerstone Home Lending
Island Rentals
KeyBank
Shell Puget Sound Refinery

**Table Sponsors:**
Fidalgo Country Inn
Labor Ready
Majestic Inn & Spa
Samish Indian Nation
Tri-County Recycling
Walgreens Drug Store

**Friend of the Festival:**
Chinook Enterprises
Island Rentals
Upstage Boutique and Men’s Store

Without their generosity and commitment to our community events and festivals would not be possible! Thank you.

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**Waterfront Festival Milk Carton Derby**

The Waterfront Festival is proud to announce a new event this year created for youth 12-18, the Waterfront Festival Milk Carton Derby! The derby is being organized by a sub-committee team led by Kari Kennedy (KeyBank), Leileah Petty (State Farm Insurance), and Jeffery Pleet (Edward Jones). This event designed to engage older youth in participating at the festival and is a welcome and fun addition to the Sunday line-up. The derby boats will have two categories in which to compete; on dry land there will be a prize awarded for “Most Creative,” and on the water a prize will be awarded to the first boat that crosses the course finish line. Teams can apply to compete in either category or both. Teams can be made up of as few or as many members they want, but in order to participate on water they must be 15–18 and have parental permission. Rules, waivers, and permission slips can all be found on the chamber website at www.anacortes.org.

You can help! Local businesses have already started collecting well rinsed out milk cartons to get a jump on helping teams to collect cartons for their boats. You can drop off your ½ gallon rinsed cartons at Peoples Bank (911 11th Ave), Bank of the Pacific (801 Commercial), KeyBank (1600 Commercial Ave), Fastenal (2915 T Ave), or the 3R Thrift Store (616 Commercial).
Waterfront Festival

2012 Sponsors:

Venue
• Port of Anacortes

Poster
• Shell Puget Sound Refinery
• Dakota Creek
• Island Hospital
• Trident Seafoods

Admiralty
• Puget Sound Energy
• Skagit Valley Herald
• Tesoro

Vice-Admiralty
• KeyBank
• Les Schwab
• Swinomish Casino & Hotel
• Whidbey Island Bank

Commodore
• Anacortes American
• Gere-a-Deli
• Irishman Enterprises
• Pacific Party Canopies
• Samish Indian Nation
• Sebo’s Hardware
• Transpac Marinas, Inc.
• Williams & Nulle CPA, PLLC

Captain
• Best Western Plus/Candlewood Suites
• Lovric’s Sea-Craft Inc.

Helmsman
• MacGregor Publishing
• Marine Hardware & Supply
• Nordic Northwest Yachts
• Peoples Bank
• Soroptomist International

Friend of the Festival
• Anaco Bay Inn
• Calico Cupboard Café & Bakery
• Mystic Sea Charters
• Upstage Boutique and Men’s Store

Jody Barnett (Shell Puget Sound Refinery and Poster sponsor and Kristi Gabrielse (Ana-Cross Stitch and President of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors) unveil the 2012 Waterfront Festival Poster at the business after hours sponsored by Trident Seafoods, Gere-a-Deli, Rockfish Grill/Anacortes Brewery/H2O, and Labor Ready.

Schmooze FAIR

Thursday, April 12
4:00 – 8:00 pm
Van Zyverden’s Bulb Warehouse
Tickets $20
Call EDASC 336-6114

ANACORTES WATERFRONT FESTIVAL KICK-OFF DINNER
FRIDAY JUNE 1ST 6:00 P.M.
AT THE PORT OF ANACORTES TRANSIT SHED

Great fun! Great food! Great band!
Join us on the dock to honor our Port Partners. Sponsor a table or buy your tickets at the door. Tickets go on sale April 2nd. Call or e-mail Julie at the Port for information and to reserve your seats!
(360) 299-1804
julie@portofanacortes.com

On the waterfront
**new members**

**ANACORTES ARTISAN BAKERY**
124 Lummi Drive
La Conner, WA 98257
(360) 333-5658
www.anacortesartisanbakery.com
Cherry Haas
cherryreb@msn.com
Bakery

**ANCHOR SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTING**
1202 9th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 929-2706
anchorsocialmedia.com/
Caren Bonnet
caren@anchorcaters.com
Social Media

**BRIDGE CAFE**
4962 Old Cornet Bay Road
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 914-1473
www.bridgecafe.us
Lisa Aydelotte
lisa@bridgecafe.us
Restaurant

**FIDALGO YACHT CLUB**
PO Box 1838
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 299-9123
www.fidalgoyachtclub.org
Liz Weideman
Liz@fidalgoyachtclub.org
Yacht Club

**GREYSAM INDUSTRIAL SERVICES**
1777 S. Burlington Blvd., #456
Burlington, WA 98233
(360) 349-6572
www.greysam.com
Lori Ludwig
lori.ludwig@greysam.com
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360-378-2117
www.LCCA.com
Mary Wright
marywright@lcca.com
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www.nwyachtprovisions.com
Sandra Benton
info@nwyachtprovisions.com
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Aaron Stribling
Auto Parts

**OUTER ISLAND EXPEDITIONS**
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(360) 376-3711
www.outerislandx.com
Nathan Brandow
outerislandx@live.com
Whale Watching

**PARTOLAN DESIGN**
13266 Heart Lake Road
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 298-1446
Angelita Partolan
apartolan@me.com
Graphic Design

**SHER-E-PANJAB**
2120 Commercial Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 588-4793
Jaspreet K. Gill
nili-jasprett123@hotmail.com
Restaurant

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**Thank you from the Fidalgo Island Quilters**
FIQ greatly appreciates the participation of 37 businesses up and down Commercial Avenue in this year’s Quilt Walk. We hope it has been a positive experience for you and your visitors and that it has made them more aware of what you do and offer.
—Joe Pepia, Quilt Walk Chairperson
Thank you to this month’s sponsors:
Luncheon:
• Scott Milo at the Framemaker
Business After Hours:
• Trident Seafood Corporation

And thank you to all who contributed to the gift give-aways!
Luncheon:
• Always A Coach
• American Cancer Society
• Bayside Specialties, Inc
• Days Gone By Antiques—for the aprons
• Jim Darling—Prospective Member
• Le Crema Cakes—for all the wonderful cupcakes
• Marketing With Mary
• Papa Murphy’s Pizza
• The Mailbox

Business After Hours:
• All About Honeymoons and Vacations
• Anacortes AJ Rentals
• Buer’s Anacortes Floral & Gift
• Cap Sante Inn
• Cap Sante Court Retirement Center
• Edward Jones—Jeffery Pleet
• Fidalgo Island Quilters
• Fine Edge Nautical & Recreational Publishing
• Gems, LLC
• Kathy’s Upscale Retail Boutique
• KeyBank
• Labor Ready
• Marketing With Mary
• Olympic Legal Services, PS
• Papa Murphy’s Pizza

Chamber member, the Anacortes Rotary Club, in a group picture. This amazing group raised $5,000 to sponsor Relay for Life in just a few minutes at a club meeting in February.
Executive Board
PRESIDENT
Kristi Gabrielse  Ana-Cross Stitch
PRESIDENT ELECT
Kathy Larson  Puget Sound Energy
TREASURER
Mark Lawrence  Simply Yards
PAST PRESIDENT
Mark Bunzel  Fine Edge Nautical & Recreational Publishing
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Leah Hines  Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
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Thank you, volunteers!  Volunteer Hours: 197  Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org