**Jill Andrews**

Please join us on March 12, 2015 at the Majestic Inn as we welcome Jill Andrews of Certified Display Services Inc with her presentation on Effective Promotional Brochure Design. Jill is a Pacific NW native, originally from the Walla Walla valley. She currently lives in Seattle and pursues her passions by volunteering for non-profit groups that build community. She served as a volunteer board member and elected council representative within the Pike Place Market for over 10 years and is currently on the Executive Board for Destination Des Moines.

Celebrating over 20 years in marketing, sales, and tourism based advertising, Jill’s presentation on effective brochure design can be utilized as a checklist for any print media advertising. Her discussion will center on how to reach your target audience with the best potential for return on investment. Jill’s photographs and creative influence were used for the design of Whidbey Island’s Greenbank Cellars’ rack card, winning the 2007 Best Rack Card Design award from the International Association of Professional Brochure Distributors.

Jill is offering her time after the meeting to anyone that would like to bring in a copy of their current brochure for a one-on-one review and discussion. Last time Jill was here there were a lot of people interested in this added service, so feel free to email her directly at JillA@CertifiedFolder.com to schedule time if you are unable to attend or stay after the meeting.

This luncheon is sponsored by Scott Richards Insurance, serving Anacortes since 1955. They offer access to numerous preferred and specialty markets such as Safeco, Hartford, MetLife and CHUBB, allowing them to custom-fit coverage and pricing to fit each individual client.

The lunch will take place at the Majestic Inn & Spa at 419 Commercial Avenue, from 11:30am to 1pm and will be $15 in advance, or $18 at the door. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the giveaway!

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**Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy**

**Island Hospital**

Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy (POST) at Island Hospital is hosting the March 19th Business After Hours from 5:30-7pm. The POST Center provides comprehensive services delivered by specially trained, skilled professionals whose focus is improving each patient’s quality of life by improving strength, mobility and function. Therapists trained in disease processes, treatment techniques and exercise principals provide one-on-one care and education to achieve optimal results. For more info call (360) 299-1328 or visit [www.islandhospital.org](http://www.islandhospital.org).

POST is located at 1015 25th Street, in the Medical Arts Pavilion at the east part of the hospital campus. Take Commercial Avenue to 25th Street, turn west into the parking lot (near the Island Hospital reader board). The two-story Medical Arts Pavilion is to the left and ample parking is available. Please RSVP online and bring a gift for the give-away!
As a result of the chamber’s close working relationship with Washington State Ferries, Anacortes was offered the opportunity to have nine permanent installations aboard the new Samish ferry. We identified features of Fidalgo Island to herald to ferry riders. These beautiful photos depict our natural magnificence and promote our community as a place to visit. I want to thank Karla Locke, Chris Terrell, Tim Dussault and Kathy Khile for their assistance in completing this project in a tight time frame. I also want to thank the photographers for donating their images and for the city for allowing tourism funds to be used for printing and framing these promotional pieces.

The Samish will set sail this summer, with a christening celebration scheduled for May 20 (more information to come).

—Stephanie Hamilton
Executive Director

Local photographers’ works installed on new Samish ferry

Kayaking with Whales
Photographer: David Clark

View from Cap Sante
Photographer: Tony Locke

Sailboats in Fidalgo Bay
Photographer: Chris Terrell

Washington Park
Photographer: Leslie Dorn

Downtown Anacortes
Photographer: Corey Freedman

Deception Pass Bridge
Photographer: Steve Berentson

Rock Climbing—Mt. Erie
Photographer: Jim Thompson

View from Mt. Erie
Photographer: Eddie Murdock

Bowman Bay Trail
Photographer: Karla Locke
member profile

Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc.

Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc. is a family-run business that has been serving Island and Skagit Counties for over 20 years. Pioneer specializes in both residential and commercial work. They consider themselves PIONEERS in tree work and landscaping.

In addition to tree service and landscaping, they also offer lawn care services, site preps and dig outs, storm drain cleaning, roof and gutter repairs and installations, selective land clearing, brush chipping and many more services. They like to tell their customers, “If it needs to be done outside, chances are we can do it!” Pioneer’s employees have the expertise and the quality equipment to handle the most technical and difficult jobs.

Owned by locals David and Denice Walton, Pioneer prides itself on professionalism and community involvement. In addition to owning Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping, Inc., the Waltons own Pioneer Blueberry Farm on north Whidbey Island, open in the summer for U-pick.

meet your board

Nick Chahley

Nick Chahley began his career in retail at a very young age in the 80’s pricing bags of potato chips for his parents’ distribution company in Dawson Creek (not where the TV show was filmed) in northern Canada. By the time Nick was in middle school, he was running a route delivering and writing orders with his Grandpa. From there, Nick went to University and studied education, lucky for him he took a break from school in 1999, which lead him down the path to meeting his wife.

On his break from school Nick took a job with Shoppers Drug Mart and quickly moved up to manage one of their travelling teams that built, and helped with the startup of new stores, in British Columbia and Alberta. On one of these trips he met his future wife and after just a few weeks decided she was perfect, and living from hotel to hotel would not work anymore. Nick went back to running a few Shoppers Drug Mart stores in the Vancouver area while he and his future wife dated. After 16 months they were married and Nick moved to Washington and started his career with Walgreens.

Nick’s career at Walgreens started in 2003 as an assistant manager in Bellingham, where he and his family now live. Nick helped with the opening of Walgreens locations in Sedro Woolley and Ferndale. In 2008 he was transferred to the Anacortes location as the store manager, with the goal of turning a large corporate retail pharmacy located in a small town into a small town pharmacy that happens to be operated by a large corporation. Since joining the Anacortes community he has sponsored or volunteered at many local functions and fundraisers. One of his favorites is the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge, which is coming up March 7th. It reminds him of the cold weather up in Northern Canada where he grew up.

Nick joined the chamber as soon as he took over the store in Anacortes as he feels it is really important to support local organizations that do so much for our community. Also, being new to town it has been very key to him getting to know more people in the community and drive his pharmacy to help people get, stay and live well in Anacortes. He has really enjoyed connecting with so many people within the community at different chamber events including the after-hours and luncheons. He is excited with the direction the chamber is taking to encourage community involvement and developing a brand promise for the community.

On Nick’s desk is a quote “When my life is over, I know that most important thing I will be judged on is what kind of father and husband I was.” He uses this quote to remind himself, when it is time to go home, what has driven him to be super involved with his family. Nick on weekends can be found coaching his two girls Ayla (10) and Camden (8) in basketball, hockey or taking them to the golf course.

Nick and his wife Carrie have taken on remodeling their last three homes, where Carrie does all the designing herself. In their current residence Carrie helped Nick remodel the entire four bedroom house including moving a few bathrooms and gutting the whole kitchen.

Nick feels that one of his main roles is to foster relationships and build connections within the community—it’s good for business and it’s good for our city!
Spring Wine Festival

The Seventh Annual Spring Wine Festival is a little over a month away and we have some great events planned for this year’s festivities. It will be a full weekend of activities in Anacortes with winemaker dinners on Friday night and a bubbly brunch on Sunday morning, live music in downtown Anacortes Saturday evening after the festival, and the Spring Boat Show at the Cap Sante Marina Friday through Sunday.

We want to give a special thanks to our generous sponsors. The financial support of these local businesses allow us to host events like the spring wine festival and bring over 1,000 visitors to Anacortes for the weekend to discover or rediscover our charming town. Thanks to Tesoro Refinery, Shell Puget Sound Refinery, Swinomish Casino and Lodge, Heritage Bank, Barrett Financial, Managing Broker College Craig with Windermere Real Estate, Peoples Bank, and Scott Milo Gallery. If you would like become a sponsor of the spring wine festival, please contact Laura Hartner, lhartner@anacortes.org, or call her at 293-7911.

This event would also not be possible without our large team of dedicated volunteers. We have many positions available if you are interested in becoming a volunteer. Shifts are available on Friday and Saturday with partial or full-day shifts. Discounted tickets and other thank you gifts are available to volunteers of the festival. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Laura Hartner at the chamber, lhartner@anacortes.org, or call her at 293-7911.

Annual Spring Boat Show

April 10 - 12, 2014 • 10am-5pm • 1019 Q Avenue
The Anacortes Waterfront Festival is a treasured event here in Anacortes, kicking off the summer boating season. Planning for this family-friendly weekend has begun and there are many ways that your business can be involved. You can become a sponsor (there are many levels available), have your business operate a children’s activity booth, volunteer, build a milk carton derby boat with your kids, compete in the Quick and Dirty, ride a boat with the Anacortes Yacht Club, build a boat with the Fidalgo Island Rotary, take a walk with Trail Tales or just sit back and enjoy the live music and entertainment on the main stage. Call (360-293-7911) or email Laura Hartner (lhartner@anacortes.org) at the chamber office to find the best way to get involved and welcome back summer with this wonderful community event!

**Save the date!**
The Gala Waterfront Festival Poster Unveiling will be at Trident on Wednesday, May 6, 2014, 5:30PM.
thanks...

Thank you to Scott Milo Gallery at the Framemaker for sponsoring our February Luncheon and to Swinomish Casino and Lodge for hosting and catering such a delicious feast. Thanks to Mayor Laurie Gere for giving such a great “State of the City” report. Thanks also to the following business for bringing a giveaway prize.

- American Cancer Society – Relay for Life
- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Anacortes Rotary Club
- Bayside Specialties
- The Boeing Company
- Costco Wholesale
- Express Employment Professionals
- Golden Services LLC
- Louis Auto Glass
- Majestic Inn and Spa
- Read Me A Story
- Scott Richards Insurance
- Shell Puget Sound Refinery
- Skagit Publishing
- Skagit Valley College

Thank you to Re-Feather Your Nest for hosting our February Business After Hours and to Calico Cupboard for the delicious food. Thanks also to the following businesses for bringing a giveaway prize.

- Anacortes Candle Company
- Louis Auto Glass Inc
- Majestic Inn & Spa
- Mount Vernon Carpet One Floor and Home
- Potluck Kitchen Studio
- Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store

new members

RODAN & FIELDS
425 Yakima Place
La Conner, WA 98257
(501) 551-4703
JeanieBerna.MyRandF.biz
jeanie.berna@gmail.com
Skin Care

GRAFIXCORP
1327 Cleveland Ave, Suite C
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 424-5268
www.grafixcorp.com
Guy Corp
guy@grafixcorp.com
Graphic Design

member renewals

- Adrift
- Anacortes American/Your Fidalgo
- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Anacortes Community Theatre
- Anacortes Econo-Wash
- Anacortes Inn
- Anacortes Senior Activity Center
- Anacortes Ship Harbor Inn
- B & B Association of San Juan Island
- Cap Sante Court Retirement Community
- Cascade Loop Scenic Highway
- Chicago Title Company
- City of Anacortes
- Secret Harbor
- CPI Plumbing & Heating
- Dakota Creek Industries
- Charlie & Ute Collins, DDS
- Edward Jones—Jeffery Pleet
- Epicure ... for the Passionate Cook
- Chemtrade Solutions LLC
- Gere-a-Deli
- Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Island Rentals and Supply, LLC
- Island Transport Ferry Service, Inc.
- Les Schwab Tire Center
- Marina Inn Hotel
- Marine Supply & Hardware
- McCary Creative
- Pacific Marine Center
- Maria Petrish
- Port of Anacortes
- Portalis LLC
- Puget Sound Energy
- Reisner Distributor Inc.
- Cynthia Richardson
- RIS Insurance
- Samish Indian Nation
- San Juan Lanes/Bar & Grill
- Scott Milo at the Framemaker
- Scott Richards Insurance, Inc.
- SeaBear
- Sheely’s Floral & Gifts
- Skagit Bank
- Intermex Networks
- The Salvation Army
- The Store
- Tracy’s Furniture
- Upstage Boutique & Men’s Store
- Washington Federal
- Heritage Bank
- Williams & Nulle CPA, PLLC
- Windermere Real Estate

Members of the Skagit Business Alliance travelled to Olympia to meet with representatives of the 10th, 39th and 40th districts on February 18. This will be a long session in Olympia with lots of issues facing the business community.
**Destination Anacortes**

The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce has launched an initiative to develop a strategy for Anacortes as a destination. The benefit of a destination brand strategy is to enhance Anacortes’ perceived relevance in residents’, guests’, businesses’ and influencers’ minds as a preferred destination.

We are currently in the first phase of our strategic plan, which is known as the “Preliminary Brand Assessment”—we will come to a consensus on our current image and perception in the minds of both guests and stakeholders.

A Brand Team has been hand selected and organized to complete an assessment as the first phase of our comprehensive work plan to develop a strategy. The team includes internal executives as well as external experts, influencers, and community members.

- **Randy Burgess**—Ace Hardware
- **Brian Geer**—Port of Anacortes
- **Brian Johnson**—Anacortes Construction Services

**Survey Results**

Each month the Membership Division sends out a survey to its members to get a feel for what’s happening in our business community. This past month the question was: “What is your 2015 Community Service resolution?” We wanted to know what you and/or your business will do to improve our community in Anacortes or Skagit County as a whole. Here are a few of the responses we received back:

- “I believe that we need to show more positivity when talking with businesses, customers, employees and the community. Turn all negatives to positives so we move towards internal and external customer excellence.”
- “We plan to continue supporting our local groups and schools activities by donating to their causes.”
- “Work on drug abuse issues in the community.”
- “Work with Fidalgo Island Quilters to produce a program for teaching children and adults to sew and quilt.”
- “Provide excellent service at the VIC.”
- “Keep the focus on economic development initiatives.”
- “We will work at being more warm and welcoming to our neighbors in Anacortes/ Skagit County.”
- “Our goal is to open fundraising opportunities to anyone interested in raising money for their school or charity.”
- “I belong to Kiwanis and volunteer at their Thrift Shop. I also regularly donate items to them and to the local food banks.”

Looks like our businesses are geared up for a great year of community service!
chamber officers

Executive Board

PRESIDENT
Karin Baldwin Quantum Construction
PRESIDENT ELECT
Chris Long Jolly Mon Charters
TREASURER
Carol Van Iterson Bank of the Pacific
PAST PRESIDENT
Mark Lawrence Simply Yards Landscape and Design
BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
Jim Gordon Freedom Wireless Media, Inc.

Board of Directors

Barbara Atterberry Bob’s Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Jody Carlisle Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Nick Chailey Walgreens
Colleen Craig Windermere Real Estate
Nancy Dalton Gateway Bed & Breakfast
Peggy Flynn pflynn + associates
Laurie Gere City of Anacortes
Matt Gill Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co.
John Hachey Port of Anacortes
Gary Jacobson Attorney
Brian Johnson Anacortes Construction Services
Duane Knapp Pearl Buttons
Dennis Richards Island Hospital
Andy Schwenk Northwest Rigging
Chris Terrell How It Works
Mark Wenzel Anacortes School District

Chamber Staff

Stephanie Hamilton Executive Director
Sandy Swartos Visitor Information & Operations Coordinator
Laura Hartner Events & Communications Coordinator
Amanda Hubik Marketing & Promotions Coordinator
Kristi Daniels & Crystal Johnson Licensing Sub-Agents

vic (visitor information center) statistics

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Thank you, volunteers! Visit us on the web at www.anacortes.org

ANACORTES Spring Wine Festival

Saturday, April 11th 12pm - 4:30pm
32 Wineries • 6 Restaurants Winemaker Dinners & More!
360.293.7911 anacortes.org/spring

April 10 - 12, 2015 • 10am-5pm anacortesboatshow.com
1019 Q Avenue - Anacortes, WA

Coast in. Hang out.™

Photography by Steve Berentson
Newsletter designed by LMac Graphics