



APRIL 2026 Newsletter

April Showers Bring May Flowers

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Susan Cohen Thompson

Nature has always provided the inspiration for Thompson. She has hiked into temperate forests of the Pacific Northwest and deep into the rainforest of the Ecuadorian Amazon. She has gone bird watching in the jungle of Guatemala as well as watching birds from her studio. The studio overlooks a forest, the Olympic Mountains and The Saratoga Passage along the Salish Sea, the environment that plays a key role in her work. Susan is the featured artist on the cover of the Art Tour brochure.



Happy Birthday!



- Laurie Beach
- Mary Beth Fisher
- Christine Galloway
- Cathy Huntington
- Brooke Knight
- Carol Kruse
- Kathleen Robbins
- Judy Scheuffele
- Carol Sterling
- Natalie Ward
- Linda Wright

Upcoming Meetings



Our next **Membership meeting** will be **Wednesday, April 8th**, at 11:30am for socializing and business meeting at 1:00pm. The **Board meeting** will be on **Monday, April 6th**, from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

ULA Fun Day will be on **Wednesday, April 29th**. Doors open at 10:00am. Come and join friends for fun. Hopefully we will be putting our labels on Art Tour Lunch bags.

Art Tour Update

A meeting was held on March 25th to review job responsibilities and what needs have not been covered. Linda and Laurie are looking for waitresses for Friday and Saturday. A really fun job! We are also looking for item donations for the Garden Raffle basket.

FROM THE BOARD

Hello to the little darlings of the famous Utsalady Ladies Aid. I am Jeni Mellum Bottin. I am daughter to Babe & Edith Mellum. I was named after my grandmother, Georgianna "Jennie" Rolfson. She married Ole Mellum after she was a widow with 2 children. Ole & Jennie had 5 children together, their 5th child was named Burwell, born on Christmas Eve, later nicknamed Babe. Daddy was a 6 ft. 4 in Norwegian and Momma was a 5 ft 3 in Swede. I went to Stanwood schools as my other siblings and graduated in 1967. I also went to Sunday school. After high school I went to Lutheran Bible Institute, located 130th Greenwood in Seattle. My first year of school I met Jesus as my Lord & Savior. My second year I met a very tall broad-shoulder boy named Andy Bottin from Edmonds, who has now been my husband of 55 years. The little country bumpkin met a New York Yankee, baseball player. We married in 1970 after Andy came back from the war in Viet Nam. We have 2 living children out of 6 times being pregnant. We like our daughter, Danielle and our son Andrew very much. A lot of us love our children which is good. But we also LIKE them. We have gone to a lot places over the years because of a little white ball. Andy went on to be a Seattle Police Officer, who worked the streets, and also taught at the Washington Police Academy for 20 years. Andy also worked for the Seattle Mariners for 25+ years as coach. I have been a realtor for over 35 years. We live in the Maple Grove community. I am delighted to be a part of the Utsalady Ladies Aid. "Preserving the past for the future."



Elger Bay Preserve



Elger Bay Preserve is one of Island County's few undiked estuaries, and critical habitat for salmon and shorebirds. As a wetland created by beavers it traps carbon monoxide from releasing into our air.

We're at an important time in preserving one of our park gems on Camano Island. The 30-year lease for Elger Bay Preserve expires in about 5 years and at that time the Preserve could revert to the control of Washington Department of Natural Resources for future logging or sold for development.

Whidbey Camano Land Trust (WCLT) and Island County are leading an effort to seek funding through the Washington Trust Land Transfer program to permanently preserve Elger Bay. If this is successful, Elger

Bay would be permanently protected and Island County would continue to manage the property as it does now.

Happy Easter!