



**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – Fairhaven Branch, Fireplace Room
3:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

- Board Members Present:** Rick Osen, Rachel Myers, Rebecca Craven, Jim McCabe and Vernon (Damani) Johnson
- Library Staff:** Rebecca Judd, Bethany Hoglund, Janice Keller, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Wendy Jenkins
- Others Present:** Hollie Huthman, City Council Liaison; Faye Hill, Friends of BPL
-

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Chair, Rick Osen. Rick welcomed Hollie Huthman as the new Council Liaison.

Approve/modify agenda: Jim McCabe moved to approve the agenda. Rebecca Craven seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: No comment.

Consent agenda: Rick pointed out the publications that Janice set out for Trustees: a copy of the Strategic Plan that was adopted at the December meeting (*See Attachment #1 for 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. All attachments are located at the end of the minutes.*); a double-sided sheet Summary of the Strategic Plan (*See Attachment #2*); a Farewell to overdue Fines bookmark (*See Attachment #3*); and a schedule of events for Whatcom READS (*See Attachment #4*). Rebecca Craven commented that the year over year statistics were impressive: 25% increase in new borrowers registered and 8.5% increase in total circulation. Vernon Johnson moved to approve the December 17, 2019 Regular meeting minutes and the December 2019 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Rebecca Craven seconded. Motion carried.

Board Chair report: Rick reported that he and Rebecca Judd got together with Hollie and the other new Councilmember, Lisa Anderson, for a meeting and library tour. Mayor Fleetwood is scheduled for a meeting and tour on Friday.

Rebecca Judd and Jen Vander Ploeg met with the Barkley Company and are reevaluating the Barkley Branch agreement. The Board Facilities committee will work with Rebecca and Jen on this – it will be a future agenda item.

Board member reports: Damani reported that the League of Women Voters, along with the Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education and Village Books, is sponsoring a Centennial Celebration event: *Elaine Weiss at WWU's Performing Arts Center Mainstage, The Woman's Hour*, to honor the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment. The event will be held on Thursday, February 27. There will also be a Gala Celebration of the League's 100 Year Birthday on February 14 (5:30 p.m. at Whatcom Museum, Old City Hall), featuring Washington Supreme Court Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, current Secretary of State Kim Wyman, and honoring former Secretary of State Ralph Munro.

City Council liaison report: Hollie reported she is happy to be on the Board and excited to learn more about the library. Council committees that Hollie will serve on include the Planning and Community Development committee, which she will chair, the Public Health, Public Safety & Justice committee (a merging of the Justice and Public Safety committees), and the Finance Committee. Other assignments include the WTA Board, Sustainable Connections, and the Downtown Bellingham partnership.

Friends of BPL report: Faye reported that Norm Grossman bequeathed \$20,000 to the Friends of the Library. The Friends are in the process of determining the best use of the donation. The January book sale starts tomorrow, January 22.

Library Director report: Rebecca welcomed Hollie as the Council Liaison. Rebecca invited feedback about the new format for the Director report – it is the first report with the new strategic directions. Jim commented that it was good to see the alignment of the report with the strategic plan.

Rebecca thanked Janice for her good work on the print copies of the Strategic Plan and the Summary.

Rebecca noted that we have been receiving positive feedback at the Help Desk and on social media about the elimination of overdue fines.

The first Whatcom READS program, *Paddling with Spirits: A Solo Kayak Journey*, was on Friday, January 17. It had respectable attendance despite poor weather. The full schedule can be found on the Whatcom READS website: whatcomreads.org.

The Library has been hiring and training new staff: Michelle Becker started in December as Supervisor of Public Services and Theresa Keith started January 6 as the Interim Supervisor of Materials Handling & Distribution. Rebecca thanked Jen for her hard work on this.

The Library is finalizing a new summer reading partnership with WECU to purchase additional summer reading prize books for WCLS and BPL.

The snowstorm was a big event for Library staff; all energy was focused on making sure our service points were covered and program cancellations were communicated. The Library proudly stayed open all week.

Donated Funds review: Rebecca Judd introduced this item as a 2-part series: this month will focus on recent gifts – the Norm Grossman bequest and the Whatcom Community Foundation (WCF) distribution; next month will focus on a summary of funds that may be available for the remodel and on our participation in Library Giving Day – a national program that is happening on April 23.

Rebecca thanked Faye for mentioning the Norm Grossman bequest – we will be learning more down the road about what the Friends' intend for the donation.

Rebecca reported that we received \$14,418.50 in distributions from our endowment funds at WCF and from the Bayview Fund. Rachel explained that we have three endowment funds at WCF: the BPL Agency Endowment Fund; the BPL Designated Endowment Fund; and the new Robert Bragg & George Muldrow Endowment for BPL. The Bragg-Muldrow fund was established through their estate with a core gift of close to \$3.5 million. WCF has a policy of letting new endowments grow for three years prior to dispersing distributions. The first distribution will happen in 2021. The Bayview Fund was established many years ago through the estate of Fredricka Bond – we are one of eight agencies that receive a yearly distribution.

Rick added that for the last several years the Board decided to deposit the distributions into the Library Gift Fund and set them aside for projects that are currently underway. Next month we will look at what funds are available and determine what to do with the 2019 distribution.

2019 Board summary: Rick referred to the document in the packet he put together that highlights items the board worked on in 2019, stating that all were possible because of the excellent work of the library leadership and staff.

Organization Goals 2019 report: Rebecca Judd presented a year end PowerPoint highlighting the accomplishments of the past year (*See Attachment #5 for Organizational Goals 2019. All attachments are located at the end of the minutes*). Rebecca will have a draft 2020 Action Plan ready for next month's meeting.

Facilities Committee update: Rick discussed the timeline for the remodel project:

- We are near the end of the design phase and bid documentation phase
- RMC's goal is to have bid documents finalized by February 1
- City permitting is next – RMC is working with the City to determine the type of permit
- Once we have the permit, the project will go out to bid for 4-6 weeks
- There will be a base bid and alternate projects

Rebecca Judd used a displayed blueprint to illustrate the building phases:

- Phase 1 will include the west side of the building (new materials handling area and staff workspaces) and the area surrounding the new main floor restrooms (current SkillShare and Friends display area). These two areas will be sectioned off so that

business as usual can go on in the other areas of the main floor. Phase 1 is anticipated to last approximately 10 weeks.

- Phase 2 areas include the central section (becoming SkillShare, study rooms, and public computers) and the magazine area (becoming the new Teen Space). Phase 2 is anticipated to last approximately 10 weeks. Access is still being determined.
- A 2-week contingency has been included to be used in either Phase 1 or 2.

Rebecca also displayed a sample interior color board.

New Business:

- Rick asked the Trustees if they have a preference about where to hold the board meetings when the Lecture Room is not available (either for Friends sales or remodel use). It was decided those meetings would be held in the Library Board Room.

Action items for next meeting:

- Draft 2020 Action Plan
- Sustainable funding for the future
- Barkley Branch discussion
- Donation Funds, part 2
- Trustee recruitment

Executive Session: Potential Litigation – James Erb, Assistant City Attorney, Sr.: the Board went into Executive Session at 4:29 p.m. Information was provided. Direction was given. The meeting was called back into Regular session at 4:46 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – February 18, 2020 at the Central Library, 210 Central Avenue, Library Lecture Room – at 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

Attachments:

- Attachment #1: 2020-2024 Strategic Plan
- Attachment #2: 2020-2024 Strategic Plan Summary
- Attachment #3: Farewell to over Fines bookmark
- Attachment #4: Whatcom READS *To the Bright Edge of the World*, by Eowyn Ivey, events schedule
- Attachment #5: Organizational Goals 2019



Bellingham Public Library

2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN



INTRODUCTION

OUR 2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

We are proud to present our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. We began our strategic planning process early in 2019 with the following questions:

- **What are people's hopes for their community, and how can we work together to help achieve these aspirations?**
- **What have other organizations studied or put into practice that can inform our thinking?**
- **What is our community like today, how is it changing, and how do these factors inform and shape library services?**
- **How are libraries across the country supporting and strengthening their communities?**

Our journey responding to these questions led to us developing our Community Story (page 3), affirming our Mission (page 4), identifying Shared Values (pages 4-5) and adopting Strategic Directions (pages 6-10) for 2020-2024.

Central to this strategic plan are the community voices that helped shape it. Our Community Conversations project — adapted from an initiative of the American Library Association and the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation — provided valuable feedback to help us better understand and respond to our community.

Thank you to the library staff, trustees, city leaders, and community members who contributed to building this strategic plan. We look forward to providing quality, responsive services that strengthen our community in the years ahead.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES | JANUARY 2020



Rick Osen
Chair



Rachel Myers
Vice-Chair



Rebecca Craven



Jim McCabe



Vernon Damani Johnson



Rebecca Judd
Library Director

LIBRARIES CAN HELP!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community voices are at the heart of this plan. During our three-month Community Conversations project, we spoke with 343 people in group meetings and individual interviews, conversations that provided rich, meaningful feedback to help better understand our community and incorporate diverse viewpoints into our planning. The feedback we gathered is summarized into our Community Story below. A report describing the Community Conversations project is available on our website or by request. We are inspired to use it to envision library services that are transformative and tailored to our community's needs.

OUR COMMUNITY STORY

People want to be connected, safe, valued, respected, and accepted by others, with opportunities to be engaged and ever-learning together.

But they are concerned that our community could be more inclusive, safe, and sustainable, with resources and opportunities more equitable and prevalent for all.

As people talk more about those concerns, they talk about the need for authentic connections that strengthen our understanding of each other's diverse experiences, that bridge inequities in access to community resources and economic opportunity, and that reduce divisions and feelings of exclusion.

They say we need to focus on building a welcoming and safe community with well-funded public spaces, where relationships and connections can flourish, where reliable information is accessible to everyone, and where barriers to opportunity are acknowledged and reduced.

And if non-profits, faith-based organizations, people in leadership positions, our government, and our good and creative neighbors **played a part in those actions,** folks would be more likely to trust the effort and step forward.



MISSION

Connecting our community with each other and the world.

SHARED VALUES

Our shared values reflect who we are, why our work matters, and what we believe as an organization. They describe, define, and inspire us.

BELONGING:

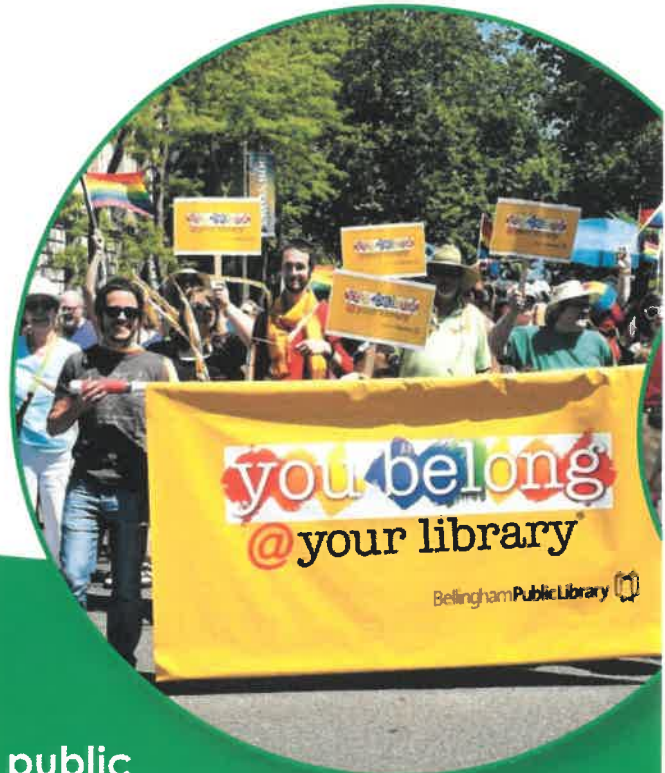
We believe in the power of belonging. When people belong, they are more able to learn, connect, survive, and thrive.

CHAMPIONS:

We are enthusiastic champions of public library values: freedom of speech and open exchange of knowledge and ideas, the right to read without judgement or restriction, and access to education and information free-of-charge and readily available to all.

COLLABORATION:

We are stronger because of our many partnerships, including two key relationships that form part of our foundation. As a department of the City of Bellingham, we are a valued city service and part of the fabric of community life. Our collaboration with the Whatcom County Library System strengthens our services in our community.



"Libraries stand for and exemplify something that needs defending: the public institutions that – even in an age of atomization and inequality – serve as bedrocks of civil society. Libraries are the kinds of places where ordinary people with different backgrounds, passions, and interests can take part in a living democratic culture."

Eric Klinenberg, "Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life"



EQUITY:

Libraries are powerful forces for community change by promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion. We work to foster understanding and accessibility, and to ensure all people see themselves and our city's diversity reflected in our collections, services, and facilities.

INNOVATION:

We embrace new ideas and new practices to meet the changing needs of our community.

INSPIRATION:

We inspire curiosity, discovery, and critical thinking, which we believe can change a life, a family, a nation, and a planet.

STEWARDSHIP:

Our focus on excellence includes reflecting and modeling careful stewardship of resources. We incorporate sustainable practices in our services and operations.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

WELCOME & INCLUDE

We offer welcoming, safe places and experiences, where connections and understanding flourish.

WE WILL:

- Actively welcome all residents of Bellingham to use our library services and facilities.
- Bring people together for shared experiences that strengthen our understanding of each other.
- Invest in services that are accessible and comfortable for people of all cultures, abilities, and communities.
- Provide all staff with training and tools needed to provide safe, prepared, environmentally responsible services and spaces.

WHAT YOU MAY SEE:

- Invitations for city newcomers to join the library community and orientation activities for new patrons.
- Library services offered in multiple languages.
- Spaces and activities that welcome gathering and interaction.



"I want to live in a community where groups of people can work together toward shared goals to solve problems. Where people's voices are heard, and they feel safe."

Community Conversations participant

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

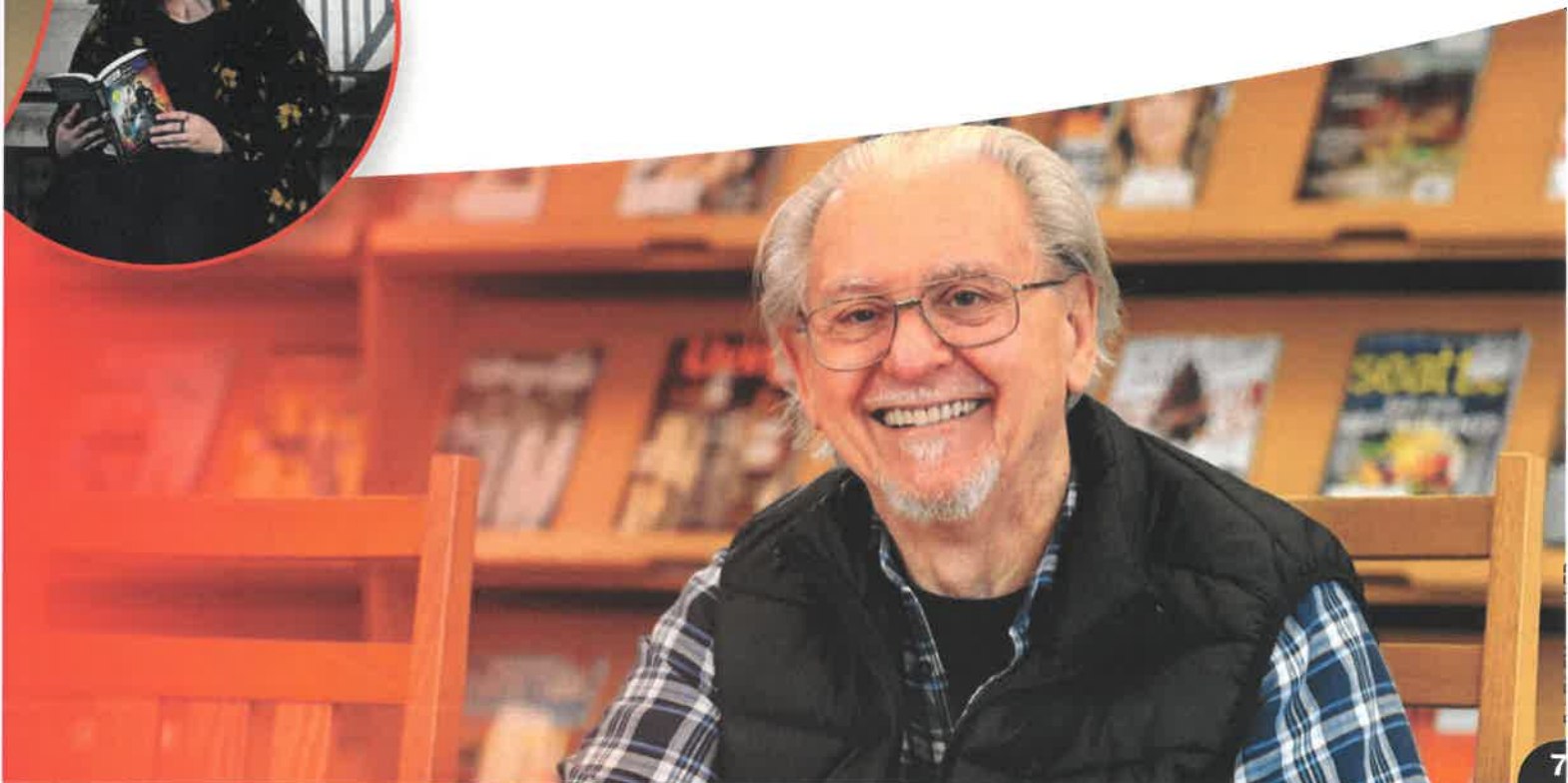
We connect people with opportunities and resources to solve problems and help them achieve their aspirations.

WE WILL:

- Provide services that support people, especially to bridge inequities in access to opportunities and community resources.
- Offer library services and experiences beyond our buildings to meet people where they are.
- Invest in appropriate staffing, training, tools, technologies, and vehicles to provide safe, efficient delivery of off-site services.
- Explore partnerships with social services providers to help support our most vulnerable populations.

WHAT YOU MAY SEE:

- Services and activities that promote digital, financial, and cultural literacy for all ages.
- Library programs and services offered at non-library locations.
- Partnerships focused on coordinating community resources and removing barriers to opportunity.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

READ & LEARN

We inspire a lifetime of reading, learning, curiosity, and discovery.

WE WILL:

- Establish the library as the best place in Bellingham for people of all generations to learn together.
- Support readers of all ages and abilities with rich, diverse collections and opportunities to strengthen literacy skills and cultivate a love of reading.
- Provide all staff with training and tools needed to effectively deliver and promote library reading and learning services.
- Continue improvements in library technology and automation to focus staff resources on direct services to the public.

WHAT YOU MAY SEE:

- Inspiring hands-on learning experiences for all ages.
- New resources that respond to changing community needs.
- Opportunities for readers to engage with library staff and each other.



"We can only weather the rate of change we are facing by building sense of community. Without an intact social matrix, change is more of a challenge."

Community Conversations participant

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

INFORM & INVOLVE

We provide information and activities to stay abreast of community issues and events, fostering informed, active participation in civic life.

WE WILL:

- Offer access to materials, tools, and expertise to help develop critical-thinking skills.
- Help people stay in touch with issues that matter in their community and promote informed, active participation in civic life.
- Partner with city leaders to foster public education and involvement in City of Bellingham strategic priorities.
- Consistently inform and involve partners, stakeholders, and community members in decisions about library policies and services.

WHAT YOU MAY SEE:

- Programs to foster media literacy and respectful civic dialogue.
- Collaboration with city officials and others on issues that matter to the Bellingham community.
- Regular opportunities to provide feedback about library services.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

THRIVE & GROW

We are a valued community partner and trusted city service, playing a central role in Bellingham life.

WE WILL:

- Work with city leaders to achieve level of service standards to increase staffing, hours of operation, materials expenditures, and facility square footage.
- Enhance library facilities to deliver quality, contemporary services that are technologically innovative, thoughtfully located, and environmentally wise.
- Foster strong public and private support for the library.
- Measure and evaluate library services and operations to continue improvements and ensure strategic progress.

WHAT YOU MAY SEE:

- Progress on capital improvements and level of service standards.
- Plans for library services in the north area of city.
- Strategies for obtaining long-term, sustainable funding.



"Education is necessary for a community to have an empowered voice: for quality of life, for justice, for building community voice, and to address pressing issues."

Community Conversations participant

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

WORKING TOGETHER

The Bellingham Public Library 2020-2024 Strategic Plan aligns with key city initiatives, contributing to their impact and leveraging our resources to serve our community.

Bellingham Public Library Strategic Plan 2020-2024					
CITY OF BELLINGHAM	WELCOME & INCLUDE	ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY	READ & LEARN	INFORM & INVOLVE	THRIVE & GROW
<i>Legacies & Strategic Commitments</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Comprehensive Plan 2016 Capital Facilities Chapter</i>		✓		✓	✓
<i>2018-2022 Consolidated Plan</i>		✓		✓	✓
<i>Climate Action Plan 2018 Update & City Council Resolution #2018-06</i>				✓	✓
<i>Bellingham Public Library Services and Funding Models Study 2017</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Bellingham Central Library Space Planning 2018</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

We collaborate with many other organizations. Listed below are those that provide support that makes our services possible. Visit us online or contact us to find out more about these and other partners.

- Whatcom County Library System
- Bellingham Public Schools
- Friends of the Bellingham Public Library
- Washington State Library
- Western Washington University
- Whatcom Community College
- Bellingham Technical College
- Northwest Indian College





Bellingham Public Library

CENTRAL LIBRARY
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 778-7323

FAIRHAVEN BRANCH LIBRARY
1117 12th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 778-7188

BARKLEY BRANCH LIBRARY
3111 Newmarket Street #103
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 778-7290

bellinghampubliclibrary.org

Check our website for our hours of operation, community drop-boxes, online services, and more!



DEIRDRA DAY-BUTMA

What's next? Our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan will shape our priorities for the years ahead. Look for our annual action plans and reports on our accomplishments to see how we're doing!

ON A TYPICAL DAY

1,699
HOLD REQUESTS
FILLED

5,475
BOOKS, EBOOKS,
DVDS, & OTHER ITEMS
BORROWED

399
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

224
PUBLIC COMPUTER
SESSIONS

1,874
WEBSITE VISITS

2,218
VISITS TO OUR THREE
LOCATIONS

25
LIBRARY CARD
SIGNUPS

94
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE





Bellingham Public Library

2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

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Our full 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and background documents are available at bellingshampubliclibrary.org

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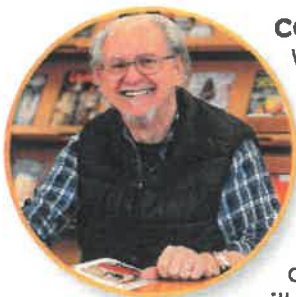
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25
LIBRARY CARD
SIGNUPS

94
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ATTENDANCE





That's right, we said farewell to overdue fines and cleared them from all accounts. This ensures greater access to library materials and services – after all, that's what public libraries are all about!



bellinghampubliclibrary.org
wcls.org



WHATCOM
READS

TO THE BRIGHT EDGE OF THE WORLD



Whatcom READS is an annual literary happening that invites Bellingham and Whatcom County neighbors to celebrate books by reading or listening to the same title. During the year, locals discuss the title with groups and explore the book's themes at lively, public gatherings leading up to the author's visit. Whatcom READS' 2020 featured title is *To the Bright Edge of the World* by Eowyn Ivey.

Inspired by the book, we'll examine the themes below:

DISCOVERY & ADVENTURE

Like Eowyn Ivey's Pulitzer Prize-nominated *The Snow Child*, *To the Bright Edge of the World* is set in remote Alaska, only a generation earlier, in 1885. Col. Allen Forrester is charged with leading an expedition to the edge of the known world.

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY

At the Vancouver Barracks in Washington Territory, Allen's wife Sophie is not content to bide her time while Allen is out adventuring. Sophie explores the emerging art of photography, discovering a talent that defines her life.

CARTOGRAPHY

As they map the territory and gather information on the native tribes, whose understanding of the natural world is unlike anything they have ever encountered, Allen and his men discover the blurred lines between human and wild animal, the living and the dead.

BIRDS

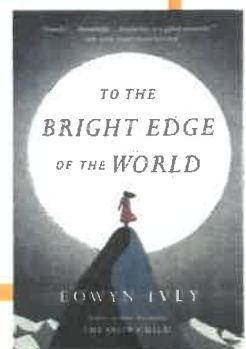
As the months drag on, Sophie begins to sense a strong, mystical force at play. A raven appears, ominous and foreboding. Sophie's loneliness becomes palpable. An amateur naturalist and birder, she finds solace in photography.

FEMINISM

Sophie chafes under social restrictions and yearns to travel with her husband. The author's portrayal of the forward-thinking, independent and self-confident Sophie is inspiring.

Haven't read the book yet?

Check out *To the Bright Edge of the World* at the library or purchase it from Village Books, which donates 10% of all sales to Whatcom READS.



DISCOVERY & ADVENTURE

Paddling with Spirits: A Solo Kayak Journey
Northwest coast author Irene Skyriver reads from her award-winning book. The adventure is both a kayaking experience and one of inner exploration as she connects to her Native coastal ancestors.



BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY - CENTRAL LIBRARY,
210 Central Ave.
Friday, Jan. 17, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM - DEMING BRANCH,
5044 Mt. Baker Hwy.
Saturday, Jan. 18, 3:00–4:30 p.m.

The Mountains of Alaska
Join Alpine Institute guide Jim Mediatore to discuss alpine climbing and mountaineering in Alaska.

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM - FERNDALE BRANCH,
2125 Main Street
Thursday, Feb. 13, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY - CENTRAL LIBRARY,
210 Central Ave.
Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Whatcom WRITES Anthology
Writers explore the theme of discovery, inspired by Eowyn Ivey's book. Hear the authors read from this year's anthology.

LYNDEN VILLAGE BOOKS - INN AT LYNDEN MEETING ROOM,
100 5th Street
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

FAIRHAVEN VILLAGE BOOKS - READINGS GALLERY,
1200 11th Street
Sunday, March 1, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

FEMINISM

Washington's Undiscovered Feminists
Celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage as writer Mayumi Tsutakawa presents five "woman warriors" in the arts and journalism from the past century whose stories inspire. She explores how these women changed our state and our society in this Humanities Washington program.

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY - CENTRAL LIBRARY,
210 Central Ave.
Friday, Feb. 14, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM - FERNDALE BRANCH,
2125 Main Street
Saturday, Feb. 15, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

CARTOGRAPHY

Telling Stories Through Textile Maps
Bettina Matzkuhn's textile maps tell stories through unusual forms not normally associated with embroidery. She discusses her process to create work that has been exhibited internationally.

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM - BLAINE BRANCH,
610 3rd Street
Saturday, Feb. 22, 2:00–3:30 p.m.



Whatcom READS is presented by all the public and academic libraries in Bellingham and Whatcom County and community partner Village Books. We are grateful for our funding sponsors, Friends of the Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library Foundation and for the generous support of numerous community collaborators.

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera UnObscura Workshop

Explore early photographic technology, similar to that used by Sophie Forrester in *To the Bright Edge of the World*. In this intergenerational workshop, participants will learn about the beginnings of photography and build their own camera obscura. Fun for ages 8 to 80 (and beyond!) \$30 Whatcom Museum members/\$35 non-members. Registration required. To register, visit the Whatcom Museum website, whatcommuseum.org.

WHATCOM MUSEUM - LIGHTCATCHER BUILDING,
250 Flora Street, Bellingham
Saturday, Jan. 18, 1:00–2:30 p.m

BIRDS

Taxidermy and Our Complex Relationship with Birds

North Cascades Audubon Society volunteer Paul Woodcock will give a short talk and discussion on the history of collecting bird specimens and how it relates to the John M. Edson Hall of Birds. All ages are welcome. This program is part of the ongoing Audubon Fourth Sundays series at Whatcom Museum. Museum admission required to attend program, museum members free.

WHATCOM MUSEUM - OLD CITY HALL,
121 Prospect Street, Bellingham
Sunday, Jan. 26, 1:30 – 2:30 pm.

A Short History of Bird Watching

Though people have always had reasons to be interested in birds, over the past century bird watching, or birding, has developed from a fringe pastime into one of the most popular hobbies in America. Join North Cascades Audubon Society volunteer Paul Woodcock and learn about that change and how you can take part. This program is part of the ongoing Audubon Fourth Sundays series at Whatcom Museum. Museum admission is required to attend program, museum members free.

WHATCOM MUSEUM, OLD CITY HALL,
121 Prospect Street
Sunday, Feb. 23, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

The Birds of Western North America

Photographer Ken Salzman shares his beautiful images in a slideshow set to music.

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM -
BLAINE BRANCH,
610 3rd Street
Saturday, Feb. 29, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

INSPIRED GATHERINGS

Bellingham Cocktail Week-Think & Drink

We're partnering with Bellingham Cocktail Week and Evolve Chocolate + Cafe to host a spirited discussion of this year's title, *To the Bright Edge of the World* by Eowyn Ivey. Shannon and Christy Fox from Evolve will craft a themed cocktail and appetizer inspired by the book and available for purchase. Read the book. Buy a cocktail. Eat some food. Then join us for this lively, guided conversation! Reservations recommended. Call Evolve, 360.220.1898, or visit their website, evolvechocolatecafe.com

EVOLVE CHOCOLATE + CAFÉ

deliciously perched above Village Books in Fairhaven, 1200 11th Street,
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Art Challenge

Create art inspired by the book for display at Allied Arts during the month of March. Submit your artwork or enjoy the exhibit. Drop off submissions Monday, March 2 or Tuesday, March 3, between 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

ALLIED ARTS,

1418 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham
Reception - Friday, March 6, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Exhibit - March 6–March 28

DON'T MISS THE AUTHOR EVENTS!



Eowyn Ivey visits Whatcom County March 5-7.
See back of program for event details.

AUTHOR EVENTS

Free and open to the public. Join us!

Book Discussion with the Author

Join in a lively discussion of *To the Bright Edge of the World* with author Eowyn Ivey.

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM -
FERNDALE BRANCH,

2125 Main Street

Thursday, March 5, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

An Evening with Eowyn Ivey

Whatcom Reads welcomes author Eowyn Ivey to the Mount Baker Theatre for a presentation on the Main Stage about her novel, *To the Bright Edge of the World*.

MOUNT BAKER THEATRE,

104 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham

Thursday, March 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The Art and Craft of Writing

Gain insight into the writing process as Eowyn Ivey discusses the art and craft of writing.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY -
WILSON LIBRARY READING ROOM

Friday, March 6, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Coffee with Eowyn Ivey

Whatcom Reads welcomes author Eowyn Ivey to Whatcom Community College's Heiner Theatre for a presentation about her novel *To the Bright Edge of the World*.

WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE -
HEINER THEATER,

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Saturday, March 7, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A Conversation with Eowyn Ivey

Paul Hanson, co-owner of Village Books and Paper Dreams, will interview Eowyn.

JANSEN ART CENTER,

321 Front Street, Lynden

Saturday, March 7, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

BOOK GROUPS

Join the conversation: *Discuss To The Bright Edge of the World* with a book group.

Village Books Front Streeters

INN AT LYNDEN MEETING ROOM,

100 5th Street, Lynden

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Village Books General Literature

READINGS GALLERY,

1200 11th Street, Bellingham

Monday, Feb. 3, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Sumas Book Group

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM -
SUMAS BRANCH,

461 2nd Street

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Village Books Motherhood by the Book

READINGS GALLERY,

1200 11th Street, Bellingham

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Foothills Book Club

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM -
NORTH FORK BRANCH,

7506 Kendall Road

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Village Books Afternoon Book Chat

READINGS GALLERY,

1200 11th Street, Bellingham

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Books on Tap

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM - DEMING
BRANCH, EVENT HELD AT NORTH FORK BREWERY,

6186 Mt. Baker Hwy.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Ferndale Book Group

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM -
FERNDALE BRANCH,

2125 Main Street

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Bellingham Reads Book Club

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY - CENTRAL
LIBRARY, DODSON ROOM, 210 Central Ave.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Village Books Books and Brews

OVERFLOW TAPS, 106 5th Street, Lynden

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

whatcomreads.org



Organizational Goals 2019

**Presentation to Bellingham Public Library
Board of Trustees, January 2020**

Organizational Goals 2019

1. Working closely with community groups and City of Bellingham stakeholders, update Library's strategic plan to reflect a shared vision of service for the next three to five years.

- ✓ Planning to Plan
- ✓ Community Conversations
- ✓ Research and Trends
- ✓ Development of Strategic Directions and Values
- ✓ Draft Strategic Plan
- ✓ Final Strategic Plan 2020-2024, Printing, Communications



Organizational Goals 2019

2. In partnership with City of Bellingham Public Works and ITSD, redesign main floor of the Central Library to improve patron access to collections, increase collaborative meeting spaces, and streamline workflow.

- ✓ Hire an architect
- ✓ Central Library main floor, conceptual design
- ✓ Central Library main floor, detailed design
- ✓ Central Library main floor, data/power design with ITSD
- ✓ RFP for new automated materials handling sorter
- ✓ Public information sessions

Organizational Goals 2019

3. Implement 2019-20 Level of Service increases in the areas of Staffing, Materials, and Facilities. Develop proposal for mid-term adjustment.

- ✓ Public Services Supervisor, new position
- ✓ Materials Handling and Distribution Supervisor, reclassified position
- ✓ Security attendant, new position
- ✓ Kanopy video streaming service
- ✓ Successful midterm proposal to Mayor's Office and City Council:
 - Elimination of Overdue Library Fines
 - Children's Librarian
 - Central Library main floor remodel (750K), administered by Public Works

Organizational Goals 2019

4. In partnership with Whatcom County Library System, fully implement the new Integrated Library System (ILS) to improve efficiency, security, and access to materials.

- ✓ Training for Library Staff
- ✓ Successful migration from Horizon to Polaris
- ✓ Policies and procedures, updated
- ✓ Reports and reporting workflow, implemented



Organizational Goals 2019

5. In partnership with Whatcom County Library System, update fines and fees schedule and confidentiality policy to best meet patron and Library needs.

- ✓ Background information and data collected
- ✓ Board approval of relevant policies, fee schedule, and Resolution
- ✓ Outcome measures identified
- ✓ Communications plan developed and implemented



Organizational Goals 2019

6. Evaluate current safety and security procedures and implement recommended improvements.

- ✓ Surveyed Library staff
- ✓ Returns room door on main floor, now locked
- ✓ Staff training in de-escalation techniques with Bellingham Police Department

Organizational Goals 2019

7. Improve operational infrastructure and workflow to increase efficiency and public experience.

- ✓ Meeting room project and communication
- ✓ Minimum staffing requirements for Central and branches
- ✓ Readers Advisory and Library Service to the Homeless staff training
- ✓ Whatcom Reads restructuring
- ✓ Communications restructuring with WCLS
- ✓ Equity, diversity, and inclusion in youth materials, services, and programs
- ✓ Conference and training goals/budget for 2020