



*You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give. –Winston Churchill*

### **Service Volunteers Needed! Can You Help Us Meet Our Goal?**

As we go to press, we have 103 members and 56 total volunteers, of whom 42 are service volunteers. Obviously, we need more of the latter and as quickly as possible, in order to meet our members' needs. So we've set ourselves a mighty goal: having more service volunteers than members by September 1. To sweeten the pot, we'll enter every service volunteer on the books by that date in a drawing for a very cool prize.

#### ***Here are two ways you can help us get there:***

- ✓ Consider volunteering yourself if you have a few hours a week. You say when, you say what skills you have to offer. In their interviews, new members say they anticipate needing help with light handyman jobs, picture hanging, gardening, lightbulb changing, computers and, most of all, transportation. But they're also looking for help in figuring out how to do things for themselves. Can you show a fellow member how to transplant a bush or open an email attachment or stream movies or pack for a long trip?
- ✓ Enlist other people to volunteer. Set yourself a goal of, say, one person a month: a friend, a family member, someone you do regular business with like a hairdresser or dog walker or cashier at the grocery store. All you need is your own conviction about the importance of the organization to you and to the community, a Bellingham At Home brochure (you can print one off our website or pick one up at the office), and a smile. (If you prefer, pass their contact information along—after asking their permission, of course—and we'll give them a call.) Do you belong to a group—book group, walking group, knitting group? Ask for five minutes of their time and make your pitch!

#### ***If you're looking for inspiration, look no further than Marie Mellinger, our very first volunteer.***

Marie signed on after reading a call for help in BSAC's newsletter in late 2014: Richard Abbott (see his profile in our July issue) needed help digging out from under all the emails from people interested in a fledgling group called Bellingham At Home. She quickly became—and remains today—the Keeper of the Contact List. And it's a good thing, too, because we sort of live or die by the Contact List, which contains all the contact information for everyone in our village: members and applicants, volunteers, service providers, donors, cheerleaders, advisers. "We started out with about 50 names and at the moment have 554," she says.

Marie works from home on her computer and put in 40 hours just in June. "It takes a lot of cross checking to make sure the information is accurate and not duplicative and right now I'm entering all the data from our new member interviews. I work for the love of it, because I think the village is a wonderful way to let people stay in their own homes as they age. It's been very satisfying to watch Bellingham At Home grow from concept to reality."

#### ***Specific Skills Sought:***

This month, we're looking for volunteers with graphic abilities and tools, website experience, and photography skills to help shore up our operations base.

For our services, we need more drivers, handypersons and gardeners to help members with specific small jobs.

You can download a volunteer application at <http://bellinghamathome.org>.

## Learning about Villages from an Expert



345 members, 300 volunteers... Obviously, it's not Bellingham At Home—yet. It's Ashby Village in Berkeley, Calif., which six years ago was where we are now. Today they have four paid staff and the mayor is on their board of advisors.

Please join us on Monday, August 1, 4:30-6:00 pm, at the Community Food Co-op's Connections Classroom, 405 E. Holly, as Ashby's founding executive director, Andy Gaines, shares sage advice and memorable moments from their journey. He'll also lead a lively discussion about how to shape our hopes for BAH into a stellar future. We'll provide the refreshments, you bring along any potential volunteers!

Above: Ashby Village members, volunteers & staff at their Volunteer Appreciation Dragonmax boat race, Spring 2016.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Day in the Park—Don't Miss It

Every year, seniors are invited to an information fair in Hovander Homestead Park in Ferndale, this year from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on August 10. If this sounds a bit stodgy, it's actually anything but. In addition to more than 30 vendors providing information about local resources, you'll find a barbecue lunch, live music, door prizes, bocce ball, nature walks, fitness demos, and more. There's even free bus transportation to and from the BSAC. Advance tickets and a bus sign-up sheet are available at BSAC's front desk. For more info, call 360-733-4030, ext. 1025, or email [seniordayinpark@gmail.com](mailto:seniordayinpark@gmail.com).

## Membership Matters: *Spotlight on Kate Birr*

Kate Birr entered the Bellingham At Home record book last month as (ta-dah!) the first member to receive a service. She called the office and requested a ride to the airport on a Friday, five days before her flight to Chicago, and heard back on Monday that Richard Abbott would pick up her and her partner at 8:00 am on the day. "I was a little bit anxious because it was an early flight," she says. "But he showed up right on time—it worked beautifully."

She next plans to call BAH for a list of vetted window washers.

It's only appropriate that Kate was first, because she was one of the first people to step up when the organization was forming. She was very clear that she never wanted to be part of Bellingham At Home's original steering committee or, for that matter, today's Leadership Council—but she became an ipso facto member of both. At the moment, she leads the Publicity Task Force, working waaay more than she ever expected to after retiring as a technical writer in 2011.

So she's a volunteer, she's called on BAH for service, she's about to take advantage of our vetted service provider component. What else is she hoping to get out of the organization? Well, she said, let me tell you about the social side, referring to the get-together on Friday, July 22. "The potluck was wonderful! I was really encouraged by the people I met there; it just seemed like a really good group and John and I are looking forward to getting to know a bunch of them one-on-one. There were about 40 people, most of us new to each other, and everybody mingled like crazy. I heard lots of interesting stories. I hadn't really given much thought to this social aspect of things but boy, it was great."

## Launch Event reveals what Bellingham At Home has to offer

Good food, good conversation, music and fun were the order of the day at BAH's first member and volunteer gathering, July 22. Forty-three Bellinghomsters gathered at WECU's Education Building on Holly, getting to know each other and sharing favorite dishes. Among the potluck offerings, memorable appetizers—too pretty to eat (almost)—were provided by Susan Vaughan. Did you forget your plates and cutlery? No problem, Nanette Davis and Burl Harmon had everything

covered. They arranged the venue, sent out reminders and brought essentials, including chicken and drinks. Burl Harmon, guitar, and Bob Sanders, on keyboards, made music for us.

### ***Bellingham At Home – Launch Potluck – July 22***



Dinner featured a variety of delicious salads. Cat McIntyre helped herself to a few of them.

Photo: Ali Erickson



Attendees included Caryl Hinckley (foreground) and Nanette Davis and Phyllis Shacter (in conversation).

Photo: Ali Erickson



Members enjoyed their chicken and potluck special dishes.

Photo: John Lawler

## **BSAC Membership Note**

If you're a member of BAH, you are automatically also a member of the Bellingham Senior Activity Center. BUT—in order to complete that part of your membership, you need to come in and do a bit of paperwork. Stop by the front desk and let them know you're a Bellingham At Home member. You'll be given a small form (a purple card) to complete, a BSAC scan code keychain tag and a BSAC windshield parking pass.

**BSAC Bulletin:** *The BSAC Connection* is the Senior Center's monthly newsletter. It's chock full of activities, class information, and opportunities—everything that's going on in the upcoming month. It's available at any time on the website (<http://wcco.org>). You can sign up on the website to get on the email list, or you can elect to receive the *BSAC Connection* via regular mail for \$12 a year (call 733-4030 to make a special arrangement).

Don't miss the August edition of the bulletin, with details about the upcoming event, "What's Next: Planning Ahead—Making Choices for your Legacy and Healthcare," which will take place Friday, August 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at BSAC.

## **A Special Request from the Front Office**

There is a ton of fun events on our calendar (enclosed) and the volunteers who staff the BAH office ask that you please remember to sign up for those you plan to attend—it makes it a whole lot easier to ensure that we have enough of everything! Thanks.

**Sunset Cruise sold out:** The August 9 History Sunset Cruise of Bellingham Bay, sponsored by the Whatcom Museum and featuring the narration of local historian Brian Griffin, will embark with 20 of our members.

### **Bellingham At Home Contact Information**

**Location:** Bellingham Senior Activity Center, Room 17, 315 Halleck Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

**Phone:** 360 746-3462 **E-mail:** [info@bellingshamathome.org](mailto:info@bellingshamathome.org)

**Website:** <http://BellinghamAtHome.org>

Bellingham At Home is a program of the [Whatcom Council on Aging](#), which is a 501(c)(3) organization, and a member of the [Village to Village Network](#).

Dear Member,

Can you help Bellingham At Home save money by choosing to go paperless? This means you would receive all the same communications from us—same newsletter, same notices—exclusively via email, thus allowing us to cut printing and postage costs (not to mention doing a kindness for the environment). Of course, if you don't have a device on which to receive email or prefer to have everything delivered in paper form, we'll understand.

**Please write us at [info@bellinghamathme.org](mailto:info@bellinghamathme.org) to register your preference today.**

And thanks for your support!

Your Leadership Council