

TOM HOFFMANN TO SPEAK AT MAY MEETING

Editor's note: Tom's scheduled visit in November was snowed out. Shortly thereafter, I visited his home and was mesmerized by the startling simplicity and beauty of his work. Don't miss this one!

"Anyone who has tried painting with watercolor knows why it is a notoriously difficult medium. Its transparency allows each movement of the brush to remain visible in the finished work. Attempts to refine or cover up mistakes end up looking fussy, or worse. That same transparency, though, is the very quality that gives watercolors the immediacy and brilliance that make them irresistible. They are literally lit from within. The best watercolors feel right because the paint has been given room to assert its fluid and transparent nature."

As a practicing watercolor artist and teacher, Tom Hoffmann has been dedicated to the medium for more than thirty years and paints primarily life in the city and remote landscapes throughout the Northwest. He values an economy of means that allows each stroke to carry the maximum weight of information and meaning.

In Tom's paintings, two stories are being told at once: one comes through the subject matter, which speaks of the dignity of labor, the utilitarian beauty of the work site or the perfection of wilderness. The other comes from the paint itself. When watercolor is applied with confidence, the finished painting is a record of the process of its creation. Every brushstroke remains separately visible, allowing the viewer to see and understand how the illusion of space, light and substance came to be.



Tom's respect for both his subject and his medium are unmistakable. "Realizing the potential of watercolor involves taking chances. The risks that are such an important part of the medium can be understood in terms of specific variables; they are informed risks. Knowing how to see what is essential to a particular scene involves skills that can be isolated and practiced. My classes are designed to assure each student that the choices they make while painting are conscious choices. The ultimate goal of a course of study, after all, is to become one's own teacher."

Tom Hoffmann's paintings have been shown in the Seattle Art Museum, Frye Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Whatcom County Museum, The Copley Society of Boston and the Armory at Park Avenue in New York City. He was educated at Amherst College, Massachusetts and the University of London, England. Tom teaches at the Gage Academy, and conducts workshops throughout the Pacific Northwest. To view additional work by this artist, please visit www.hoffmann-watercolors.com.



MEETING

May 22, 2007

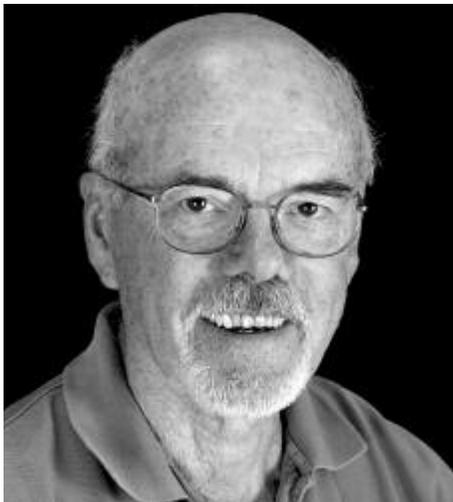
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|----------------|-----------------------|
| 7 to 7:30 p.m. | Social Time |
| 7:30 p.m. | Business Meeting |
| 8 p.m. | Program: Tom Hoffmann |

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church

308 4th Avenue South • Kirkland, WA

SEE MAP ON BACK PAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It has been a privilege and a pleasure to write the presidents message this past year. I have written it from my own experience in what painting and the study of art history has taught me. I believe that anyone who is involved with art (any of the arts) is on the road to self discovery.

I received a very nice and welcome letter from Ratindra Das. He said "We work with a theme or an idea. During the painting process, I wait for the moment when the medium takes over and I relinquish control. I am only a guide." That pretty well sums up what I have been trying to say. Painting is an act of surrender.

This past year has seen growth of NWWS in several ways. In particular, we now offer critique for those who want one. Thanks to all the Signature members who said yes and to Sheila Mattick for putting it together. Thanks to all the board members and volunteers who helped in so many ways. We are a strong

New Signature Members

Congratulations to new signature members.

Colleen Glastetter - Olympia, WA
Carol McSweeney - Kalispell, MT
Joanne Shellan - Kirkland, WA
Gary Griswold - Mercer Island, WA
Sarah B. Hansen - Bend, OR
David Turner - Nordland,

society and we have the respect of other watercolor societies across the country because of the volunteers. I would like to encourage those members who have not participated, to consider doing so. I know I felt like more of a member when I did. Every job no matter how small helps the society.

I am going to take a year off. Ill help here and there but mainly I want to spend more time in the studio. I hear paintings calling me.

Thank you
Jerry Baldwin

Letters

Dear (President) Jerry:

Your message in the newsletters is a breath of fresh air. It's inspiring and thought-provoking. Very rarely do I see something of this nature included in a newsletter. I must share my thoughts with you and others.

An artist paints with beliefs and personal convictions. Much too often we read about 'how to control this, or controlling that' about the medium of watercolor. We work with a theme, or an idea. During the painting process I wait for the moment when the medium takes over and I relinquish control! I am only a guide until there begins a dialog with the medium. At that point there is no separation between the artist and the artwork! Images percolate through conscious mind to the subconscious level and there they set up shop!

A true artist transcends the technical virtuosity and reaches out for the deepest subconscious level to get the most, because that's where the creative power comes from. The artist listens to his muses. I also enjoyed reading the few lines about 'style'. Styles come and go but learning to find 'yourself' is a search and a continuous process. I always strive to make a perfect painting but I hope I never get it, for that will be the last day of my life as an artist! Please keep writing. Thank you.

Ratindra Das NWWS,AWS,NWS

Editorial

Is it Watercolor? II

By Jeffrey L. Waters

The debate rages on. Must a work be 65% watercolor? 85%? 100%? Or no fixed number at all? Is pastel watercolor? (or as some prefer, "Watermedia"). There are now water-soluble oils. Do they count? If the whole thing is buried under wax as an encaustic, can it still be a watercolor? We had one juried into Waterworks.

If I glue strips of paper and a trio of crushed beer cans onto my painting, is it legal? Must the work be on paper? Does the matting have to be white? Must it be under glass? What about the grounding? Many artists are now painting on clay board.

Is gauche legal? When I asked our members, the consensus was "A little bit but not too much." How do you quantify that?

These are not idle questions. Show entries are accepted or rejected on precisely these criteria. Some have complained that certain entries should have been disqualified because "...they are not really watercolors".

"Read the prospectus!" This is the ringing cry of the show chairs. That does not always settle the matter. Show me, in any prospectus, a ruling on water-soluble oils. As materials become ever more versatile and the lines between them blur, we are going to have to deal with these questions.

While I can see the utility of blending in other materials, in my heart-of- hearts, I'm a purist. Nothing fires my soul like a beautifully executed painting in transparent layers of light. That's watercolor!

*Letters to the editor welcome.
Jeffrey.waters@comcast.net*

The thoughts and opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent any position of NWWS.

MEMBER NEWS...

NANCY BOGNI was the featured artist at the Seahurst Gallery in Burien in March and April. The title of the show is 'Who Says Watercolor and Oil Don't Mix.'

HELGA JAQUES is one of twelve artists selected by the "Renton Arts Commission", to show her work in the Lobby of

the Carco Theater in Renton. The Exhibition runs through April 18th.

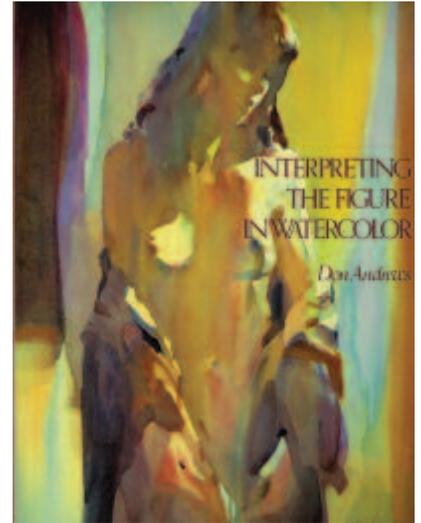
JOAN L. FREY'S painting, "Sea Surge", was juried into the Northwest Watercolor Society Open Exhibition."

KATHY COLLINS - May 12th and 13th florals and still life paintings in the Kirkland Studio Art Tour at Phyllis Ray's house: 11119 NE 68th St, Kirkland, 10-6PM. May 17th 5-8PM: landscapes, cityscapes, and boating scenes featured in the Edmonds Art Walk at Cole Gallery: 107 5th Ave South - Edmonds. www.kathycollinswatercolors.com

LORRAINE PTACEK'S paintings were accepted into the 15th Annual National Exhibition of the Western Colorado Watercolor Society, the Norris Gallery's Watercolor 07 show and the Watercolor Arts 26th Juried Art Exhibition. She won an award at the Addison Artists Guild Show, Addison Illinois.

PARKLANE GALLERY - Artists C. Sharp & Jerry Baldwin: April 3-May 6, 2007. Artists' Opening Night Reception April 12, 6-9pm. Kirkland's Second Thursday/Art Walk April 12, 6-9pm. Gallery open 11am-7pm daily. <http://www.parklanegallery.com/>

ELAINE DUBE' had 2 watercolors accepted in the Arizona Watercolor Society Spring Membership Exhibition and won an Award of Merit for "Rust and Rigging #9". The show is in Glendale, AZ and runs through Mother's Day.



Flash!

Don Andrews' beautiful book, "Interpreting the Figure in Watercolor" has been reprinted! Soft cover - \$24.95 plus \$3.50 postage and handling. Send check or money order to Don Andrews PO Box 525 - Fairhope, AL 36533. www.donandrews.net

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2007 WORKSHOPS

June 4-8
Thomas Owen
Watercolor Impasto

June 11-15
John Salminen
From Abstraction To Realism

June 25-29
Judi Betts
Magical Shapes...Watercolor Fun Exploring Creative Realism

July 16-20
Mark Mehaffey
Design Your World: Traditional To Experimental

July 27-31
Joan McKasson
Creative Watermedia Painting

August 20-24
Frank LaLumina
Plein Air Watercolor

August 27-31
Mel Stabin
Watercolor: Simple, Fast & Focused

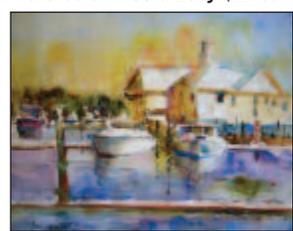
September 10-14
Diane Maxey
Creative Painting From Photographs

October 18, p.m. for 5 wks
Larry Mason
Watercolors, Imagination And Serendipity

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Eric Wiegardt AWS, NWS

Video: *Secrets to Painting Loose*
Book: *Watercolor Free & Easy* \$27.99 + \$5 s/h



WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS
June 18-22 Clemmons, NC
July 16-20 & Oct. 23-25 Ocean Park WA
August 27-29 Tacoma, WA
Sept. 17-21 Kansas City, MO
Oct. 1-5 Boone, NC · Nov. 5-9 Pittsburgh, PA

Wiegardt Studio Gallery
Box 1114 · Ocean Park, WA 98640 · (360) 665-5976
www.ericwiegardt.com · watercolors@ericwiegardt.com



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Northwest Watercolor Foundation awarded a \$1500 Scholarship at the April Meeting: The recipient is Nick Inman, a graduating art student at WSU, Pullman. Nick is applying to a number of graduate schools in pursuit of his MFA. There were 22 applicants for the Gold Grant Award. Six very deserving runners-up were given \$50 honoraria. The Board of Directors is very excited about the growing interest in the Gold Grant and the improved quality of student applicants. NWWF members should be pleased to sponsor such a rewarding program. We encourage members, or friends of the arts, or other business partners, to participate by becoming a Director on the Foundation Board. It is easy, just volunteer or contact me.

History: The Northwest Watercolor Foundation became a separate non-profit entity (corporation) from NWWF in 1998 through the considerable efforts, expertise and energies of Mary Ann and Hermann Goeppele. Prior to that time, Gold Grant was funded by members who made \$100 contributions for a gold pin, or by passing the hat at each meeting. One scholarship of \$500 was given the first year in 1991.

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Bulgaria 5/20 - June 2 Judi Betts
 Prague 8/31 - 9/12 Karlyn Holman
 Bulgaria 9/14 - 9/27 Karlyn Holman



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Upon certification by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, the Gold Grant fund (approximately \$9,000) was transferred to the Foundation. Now donations to the Foundation would entitle contributors to a charitable tax deduction and the Foundation could invest the money without having to pay tax on earnings. Over time a sufficiently large endowment could be built to make NWF self-sustaining. NWWF donates 10% of member's dues each year to the Foundation.

Currently: The Foundation has built assets to \$35,000 by means of donations, a wise investment policy and a lean budget; this amount is still short of making us self-sustaining. NWF has enlarged the scholarships for college students and implemented art enrichment activities for children. Under prevailing Foundation spending policies, only 4% of endowment funds can be spent annually which in the case of NWF would mean about \$1,400. This year we had 22 Gold Grant applicants, many were highly qualified, and we had only one \$1500 scholarship to award. Since we had not used all of our

budgeted money for the Art for Kids program, we were able to award small stipends to 6 other candidates. For that reason, NWWF should continue to support our efforts to grow the endowment to well over \$100,000.

Betty Jo Fitzgerald
 President Northwest
 Watercolor Foundation
 e-mail: bettyjoart@hotmail.com
 360-866-4607

www.nwwf.org

Check out your website www.nwwf.org! To get the maximum benefit, register with the website. All you do is click on Register in the upper right hand corner. You will be asked to fill out information, then click Register at the bottom of the page. This will be sent to me for member verification and then I will add you as a member to the website. You will receive an email confirming your status as a member.

After verification you have access to the newsletter "Hot Press" online in full color, be able to post a link to your website, receive critiques of your paintings by NWWF Signature Members and have access to the NWWF Visual Library list.

If you wish to have your website linked on the NWWF website, you may fill out the application form included with this Hot Press. You must register on the website first then send your application fee along with the application form to NWWF Website, P.O. Box 50387, Bellevue, WA 98015-0387. Our website is not yet set up to receive on-line application or payment. This will be available in the future. Other benefits will follow as we continue to upgrade and improve the website. If there is anything you would see or change, please let me know.

Debbie Haggman
 Website Facilitator
d.haggman@msn.com

Acrylic Colored Pencil Mixed Media Oil Pastel Watercolor

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June 25 - 29, Bend, OR
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 Deanna Hansen - Watercolor Plus

July 16 - 20, Bend, OR
 Hugh Greer - Acrylic Landscape
 Richard McDaniel - Oil & Pastel

August 6 - 10, Bend, OR
 Sharon Tietjen - Colored Pencil

August 20 - 24, Victoria, BC
 Frank Francese - Watercolor

Sept. 10 - 14, Santa Barbara, CA
 David Taylor - Watercolor, plein air

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Painting Critique

Title: "Luck of the Draw"

Artist: Liz Walker

Critiqued by: Marilyn Sears Bourbon, NWS Signature Member



This is an interesting subject and method of expression. In my opinion an interesting painting is the highest compliment! Your color is strong and exciting. However, I think you could improve your dynamic use of color with a few more quiet areas to set off the strong passages and to help move the viewer's eye around the painting. I read this painting as an inverted triangle composition. I am not sure where you wanted the viewer to look first. I see the strong diagonal line from the foreground figure to the turquoise front

figure but then see the yellow child. With the strong diagonal line you have designed, I think the foreground figure could be a quieter color so the eye would first see the left front figure. or the yellow child. The diagonal line would still lead you but the color would be more balanced and a focal-point more defined.

I would also vary the values a bit more throughout the painting. The colors are all saturated and I think a few more neutrals would enhance the overall design. Having said that, I do think

it is a good triangular design and the elements of composition are present, and there are beautiful color passages.

I like the textures that have been developed and for my taste, I would enjoy even more of the texture and possibly pattern as well. But, that is personal taste. I also, enjoy the abstraction of the figures. You have a Chagall feeling and might want to study his work. Especially his use of color. Because of the playful nature of your work you also might want to look at the paintings of Hundertwasser. Like you he too has a strong color pallet. He also has a fascinating use of pattern. It might be fun for you to experiment with some pattern.

I would suggest that you do several more paintings of your subject matter and work in a series. See where it takes you and how you can develop your style further with even stronger design and compositional elements.

But, do not lose sight of your imaginative expression and stay true to your abstraction. These elements just enhance the excitement of your work.

For your next piece, I would also suggest you place your strongest colors and strongest value change (dark and light) at the center of interest. With this as one of your first decisions you can then direct the composition to lead the viewer around and through your design. Happy Painting!

I hope this has been helpful. I enjoyed your work very much and would love to see what you do next.

Free Air Float crates.

An Air Float Crate is a cardboard crate lined with heavy plastic to ship paintings from one place to another. I have 1 Large one which will hold a matted and framed full sheet, 5 mediums which hold framed and matted half sheets, and 3 smaller ones which hold a quarter sheet matted and framed. All are plastic lined and have extra foam for fitting. Contact Mary Ann Mountain at Kyoraven@aol.com - use NWS as subject.

OPPORTUNITIES

ArtWorks Classes

Artworks in Edmonds (2nd and Dayton St) is now signing students for Beginning and Intermediate Watercolor with Darlene Lucas. To see Darlene's work, visit WWW.Gentryart.com. To sign up for classes call Artworks at 425-774-6049.

Arts Unlimited Call for Artists

Arts Unlimited is a grass roots effort to provide opportunities for artists and art lovers to come together in Downtown Renton. Arts Unlimited Upcoming Shows.

- Saturday, May 19, 11 am – 3 pm at Merrill Gardens (104 Burnett Ave S) – Indoor venue
- Tuesday, June 12, 3 pm – 7 pm in conjunction with Renton Farmers Market (S 3rd St & Logan Ave S) – Outdoor venue
- Saturday, July 7, 10 am – 4 pm at Return to Renton Car Show (Renton Memorial Stadium) – Outdoor venue
- Saturday, August 25, 11 am – 7 pm for the Downtown Art & Antique Walk – outdoor and indoor venues. Contact artsunlimitedofrenton@hotmail.com or 425-430-6589.

Cole Gallery Classes

Cole Gallery – Edmonds - March 23rd ~ June 7th ~ Watercolor Painting with **Denise Cole** ~ beginners to intermediate levels. Max 6 students. Thursdays 5:30pm ~ 8:00pm. \$40 per class. March 24th ~ **Dianna Shyne** ~ Acrylic painting workshop "Interpreting the Landscape in Acrylic. Saturday 11:00 ~ 4:30 \$85. March 31st ~ **Janis Graves** ~ Pastel Workshop ~ Beginning level. Max 6 students. Saturday 10:00 ~ 4:00. \$75. May 12th ~ **Barbara DePirro** from Golden Acrylics ~ Free samples and 10% off all Golden products. May 26th & 27th ~ **Jennifer Diehl** ~ Oil painting workshop "Bringing Your Paintings to Life!" Sat and Sun 11:00am ~ 4:30pm \$160.

Contact Denise Cole - 107 5th Ave South - Edmonds, WA 98020. (425) 697-ARTS

Frank Webb Workshop in Winthrop 2007

October 8 - 12th - Frank will be instructing a variety of approaches to creating bold and juicy watercolor paintings in this 5 day workshop. \$495 fee includes workshop, group dinner and wine tasting. Space is limited to 20 artists.

For details and registration form, visit www.paulachristen.com or call Paula at 509-996-2598.

Frank Webb French River Cruise Workshop 2008

Experience the historic water route from Paris through the French Norman countryside to Le Havre aboard a Viking River Cruise ship. Artists and non painting companions will enjoy this trip from June 1 - 8, 2008. Frank has planned an exciting watercolor workshop with daily demos, walking tours and time in Monet's gardens. Five price accommoda-

tion categories are available, from \$2300 to \$3050 depending on your deck preference. A \$100. deposit now will hold your space for this unique experience. Check out their video at <http://www.vikingrivercruises.com>

For details and other information, contact Barbara Phillips, Scan East West Travel: 1-800-727-2157 or email: barbara@scaneastwest.com

For sale

One of a kind display unit for a 10 x 10 booth. Lightweight, easy to assemble and suitable for hanging paintings. \$100.00 Helga Jaques - 425 226 4383 Helga_j@comcast.net

Jacqui Beck Summer Class

Jacqui Beck's Summer Acrylic Painting Class: Session 1 July 16 - 20. Session 2 July 23 - 27. The class runs Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m at Seattle Girls' School, at the corner of Martin Luther King Way and South Jackson Street. Students will work on individual projects with the choice of working from a still life or photo, or doing an abstract. All materials are provided. Tuition (includes materials): \$175. 206-325-7267, jbeck@blarg.net - www.jacquibeck.com.

Jan Hart Workshop

On the Trail of O'Keeffe in New Mexico with Jan Hart-August 17 - 24, 2007 and October 12 - 19, 2007. \$1245 plus tax includes: 7 nights accommodations at Ranchito San Pedro (Jan's place); Breakfasts; some lunches and 3 dinners out at selected, fine New Mexico restaurants; All instruction, demos, critiques; Some watercolor materials; 24 hr. access to Jan's teaching studio. 3 Day Workshops - \$425 plus tax. June 15,16,17 and Sept. 14,15,16. (*Editor's Note – Jan Hart was the juror for last year's Waterworks and gave a superb workshop.*)

Robert Burrige Workshop

Robert Burrige will teach a 5-day acrylics workshop for NWWS in conjunction with jurying our 2007 membership exhibition, Waterworks. The title of his workshop is "Loosen Up with Aquamedia Painting."

Burrige, who resides in California, says that his technique "is to paint fast, furiously, spontaneously, and not cerebrally." The work shop will emphasize creative experimentation in a relaxed but lively atmosphere. All levels of experience are welcome.

Registration opens May 1st, and the workshop begins October 22nd. The workshop fee is \$350 for members and \$400 for nonmembers. To register, fill out the form included in this issue of Hot Press and mail it along with your deposit check for \$100 to the address shown on the form.

You can read more about Robert Burrige on his Web site: www.robertburrige.com.

Jerry Stitt Clinic

Jerry Stitt will offer a clinic on Bainbridge Island – July 27-28-29 from 9:30 to 4:00. \$300. Contact Dion Zwirner – PO Box 4756 – Rolling Bay, WA 98061. Ph. 206 780 1958.

Call for Artists

Sacramento Fine Arts Center is holding their Annual Art Exhibition "Magnum Opus XVII, August 14-September 1. Our judge is Jerald Silva. Fee: \$20 per artwork or \$80 for 5.

Prospectus available upon request – Sacramento Fine Arts Center - 5330-B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608. Kandi Thompson, 916-638-7768. sfac@cwnet.com

Kirkland Artist Studio Tour

The Kirkland Artist Studio Tour is back for its fourth year. May 12-13, from 10 am until 6 pm. Free maps available at Kirkland Library, Parklane Gallery and Kirkland Arts Center. www.kirklandstudiotour.com. Chris Sharp 206.949.8357

Memorials

The Northwest Watercolor Foundation would like to remind all NWS members that a gift to the NWF can be made as a Bereavement Memorial. A monetary gift to the NWF in memory of a friend or family member would be greatly appreciated. The Northwest Watercolor Foundation awards a yearly scholarship to a college art major and also supports the Art for Kids program.

Saanich Peninsula Workshops

The Saanich Peninsula Arts Society of Sidney, Vancouver Island, BC invites your members to watercolor workshops over the next two years. Gordon Henschell, Jan Fabian Wallace, Nita Leland and Cindy Agan are among the presenters. Contact Ruth Steinfatt – steinfatt@telus.net

Board Officers and Committee Chairs 2007-2008 to be elected at May general meeting

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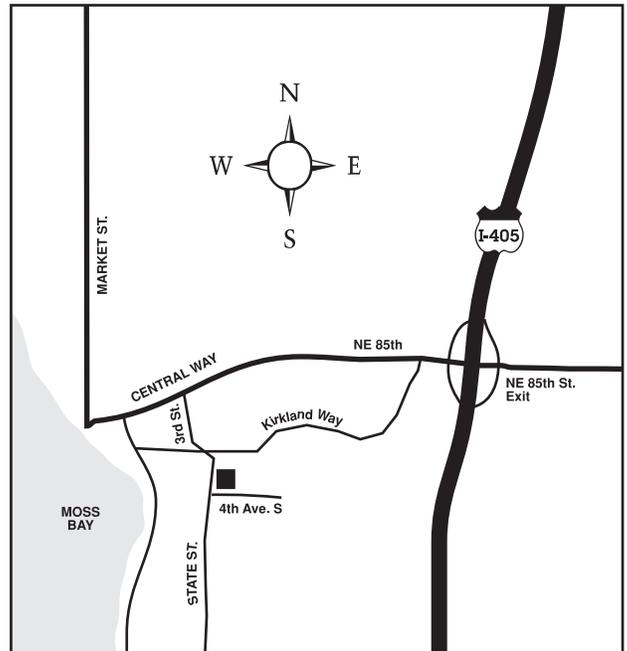
**Newsletter Deadline for the
July 2007 edition is June 15, 2007**

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(Subject line: NWWS or Hot Press)

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