



# Ineffable Twaddle

*"It is my business to know what other people don't know."  
—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

The monthly publication of  
The Sound of the Baskervilles  
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA



**Volume 37 Issue 5  
May, 2018**

Our 37<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication

## Join Us May 5 for the Annual Wreath Throw

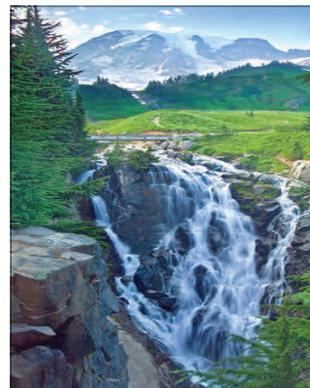
"It was on the third of May" that Holmes and Watson arrived in Meiringen and the catastrophe at Reichenbach was played out.

Our **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Throw**—to mourn Holmes' "death" and celebrate the fact that he never really died—is **Saturday, May 5.**

We'll meet for **lunch at Falls Terrace Restaurant** along the Deschutes River in Tumwater **at 11:30 a.m. After lunch—approximately 1:30 p.m.**—we'll walk to the Falls for the wreath throw, photos and champagne toast. Parking is available along the west side of Deschutes Way S.W. or in Tumwater Falls Park, just south of the Restaurant.

We'll also honor and remember our fellow SOBs who have passed on before us. Here's a partial list of those we've lost over these past 38 years:

- Will Crakes
- Samuel Fry
- John Nelson
- Don Mathews
- Jim French
- Ignacio "Nacho" Ospina
- Kay Chelemedos
- Frank & Carol Darlington
- Gerrie Kasper
- Michael Doyle
- Stu Shiffman
- Joyce Funk
- DC Smith



*In the early years, our reenactment of the events at Reichenbach Falls occurred at various waterfalls on Mt. Rainier including Myrtle Falls (above).*

### Getting to the Annual Wreath Throw:

- If northbound on I-5, take Exit 103; follow Deschutes Way SW north (straight) for about one block to Tumwater Falls Park, just south of The Falls Terrace Restaurant on your right.
- If southbound on I-5, take Exit 103; stay straight to go onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW, turn left onto Custer Way SE (which takes you back over I-5). Turn right onto Boston St SE, then left onto Deschutes Way SW. Tumwater Falls Park is south of and just beyond The Falls Terrace Restaurant on your left.

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**Renew now!**



## Time's Up!! Renew Your Dues **Now**

*Are your dues paid for the April 2018 to March 2019 fiscal year?? If not, now's the time to act!*

To keep this valuable, informative, insightful and fun-filled newsletter coming to your home each and every month, renew

**NOW!!**

Send your check—payable to "The Sound of the Baskervilles"—to our new Treasurer:

**Melinda Michaelson,  
P. O. Box 7633, Tacoma, WA 98417**

Rates are: \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only).

**Thanks!**

*To all our  
Sherlocki-  
an Moms  
out there!!*



The Seattle Public Library on Queen Anne Hill is at 400 West Garfield



Library opens at 1:00, closes at 5:00. Come early, and catch up with your fellow SOBs!

**Getting there:**

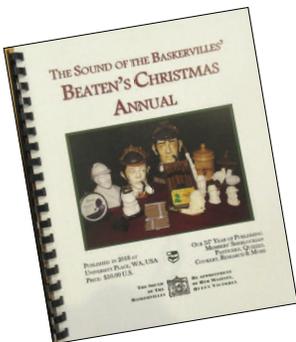
From north- or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street.

**Annual Wreath Throw is May 5!**

**We're Changing Things Up This Year!**

We'll begin our event, **FIRST**, with **LUNCH** at the **Falls Terrace Restaurant** in **Tumwater** at **11:30 a.m.** **THEN**, we'll make our trek to the **Falls** at approximately **1:30 p.m.** for the wreath throw, photos and champagne toasts.

**See you there!**



Want a 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of our 2018 Beaten's for your Library??



Extra copies are available for only \$5 each!!

Contact Editor Terri at: [terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

**"...(K)indly whisper 'Norbury' in my ear, and I shall be infinitely obliged to you."**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, 2018** at the Seattle Public Library (Queen Anne Branch) at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (*driving directions at left*).

At this meeting we'll discuss "The Yellow Face"—a chronical that appeared originally in the *Strand* magazine for February 1893—which is particularly notable as one of the six cases in which the truth was discovered even though Holmes himself erred.

**Adds our new Program Chair, Sunny Even:** Have you read "The Adventure of the Yellow Face" recently? It's one of the Canon's more debated stories, yet wasn't produced by Granada in the Jeremy Brett TV films, and is rarely referenced in other productions.

Come to May's meeting and find out why. If you have a copy of Chris Redmond's anthology "About Sixty: Why Every Sherlock Holmes Story is the Best", be sure to read Amy Thomas' thoughtful essay on YELL. It may provoke new perspectives on this controversial story.

And, to inspire your study of this tale, here's a quiz by **SOB Charlie Cook**.

1. What did Watson observe about the cases which Holmes was unable to solve?
2. What kind of pipe did a visitor leave on the table of 221B and what did Holmes say it was worth?
3. Name the tobacco in the pipe, its cost and the item in the stem said to be a sign!
4. Why did Holmes know the client's name before being told?
5. Name Holmes' client and his wife's name before they were married!
6. What item did the client find in the house his wife was secretly visiting?
7. Where did the client's wife live before he met her, and why did she leave?
8. Why did Holmes think the client's wife needed £100?
9. What famous place did the client visit the day he became upset with his wife?
10. What was in the wife's locket?
11. What did the client say to his wife about his character?
12. What one word did Holmes tell Watson to whisper in his ear if he ever became over-confident in his powers?



"My dear Mr. Grant Munro—" began Holmes. Our visitor sprang from his chair. "What!" he cried, "you know my name?"

Answers can be found on Page 5

**WINNER IN AUTOGRAPH DRAWING!**

The **WINNER** in the free raffle held at our April Meeting for the original autograph signature from Sherlockian favorite, actor Jeremy Brett was:

**SOB DOROTHY "DOTTIE" NORMANDIN**

of North Grafton, Massachusetts!!

*Congrats, Dottie!*



## The Sherlock Violin

By: SOB Ann Milam

We're all familiar with Sherlock's Strad, but did you know there's a real Sherlock Violin? As reported by Jim Gilchrist in the Summer 2015 issue of *Scottish Life*, in 2009 the 200-year-old sycamore at Conan Doyle's home, Liberty Blank House,



was removed due to root rot. Edinburgh luthier Steve Burnett crafted a violin from the wood in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Doyle's birth (22 May 1859). The Sherlock Violin was first played in the "bird-loud garden of the author's childhood home—it sounded very sweet and has been played many times subsequently, usually for charity concerts, and has received critical acclaim for its tone."

The violin is now displayed in Edinburgh University's Reid Museum of Musical Instruments, and

Bennett has since made a full "Arthur Conan Doyle Quartet" of two fiddles, viola and cello, all from the same sycamore tree.

For further info: <http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2016/03/the-sherlock-violin.html#.WsUERWaZOi4>

Photo: Steve Burnett with his Sherlock violin, viola and cello.

## An Oldie But Goodie: The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars by Anthony Boucher

A Review By: SOB Charlie Cook

After reading Michael Mallory's informative article on the life and works of Anthony Boucher in the Winter 2018 issue of *Mystery Scene* magazine, I scurried (make that limped) to my Sherlock room and grabbed my pristine copy of Otto Penzler's 1980 publication of The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars, hoping that a reread and review of Boucher's only Canonical pastiche, which James Sandoe called "a cheerful Sherlockian frolic", would appeal to the SOBs. It certainly appealed to me.

This dandy edition begins with a delightfully entertaining and informative introduction by editor Penzler, in which he presents a history of the organization known as The Baker Street Irregulars. Also included is a plethora of interesting tidbits on the life and activities of Mr. Boucher, emphasizing his contribution of mystery stories, including comments about this tale.

The story begins with a sequence of memos from and to film maker F. X. Weinberg, who complains that "The Baker Street Irregulars" are threatening him. Who are they and

## Our 2018 Writing Contest!

**SOB LAURAN STEVENS** has a new challenge for us and *all SOBs are welcome to enter!!*

**IMAGINE:** Of all the Sherlock Holmes stories written by Conan Doyle, there is bound to be at least one that you did not like the ending of, right?

### Contest Rules & How to Enter

You don't have to actually rewrite the original story's ending; just explain how you would have liked the story to end.

Bring your entry to a meeting or mail it to Lauran at: 320 West Roy St., Apt. 207, Seattle, WA 98119.

As we did with Lauran's 2016 contest—for which winning entries appeared in our 2017 issue of *Beaten's Christmas Annual*—the winning entries for *this* 2018 contest will appear in our 2019 issue of *Beaten's!*

**THERE WILL BE PRIZES AND YOUR DEADLINE IS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2018!!**

why are they targeting him? He receives a copy of the BSI's Constitution and a Manifesto railing against a man they call "that rat" who plans to show up "the cocky bastard" Sherlock Holmes for what he is! The rat, one Stephen Worth, is screen writing Weinberg's film of *The Adventure of the Speckle Band* for Metropolis Pictures and the Irregulars want him fired. But he's under contract.

Weinberg eventually invites six members of the BSI (probably not all of them real—just in case..., ahem!) to Hollywood to act as consultants for his film. They'll be housed in Weinberg's home, the address of which he managed to get changed to 221B. Along the way we have secret messages using the dancing men cipher, an envelope containing five dried orange seeds, the cropping up of the name Talipes (How's your Latin?) Rigoletti, and the incomplete name "Rachel" written in blood on the wall where a murder may have occurred, several other references from the Canon, a disappearing corpse, a delicious looking damsel, witty dialog, lechery, humor (much of it ribald, written in an era when clever use of language substituted for modern vulgarity), a less than portly Mrs. Hudson, and a pair of astute police detectives who are a bit more up to the task than those whom Holmes so often encountered.

There's even a Sergeant Watson!

Assuring the detectives that the Irregulars have a way to assist them in unraveling the case, five of them narrate a non-Sherlockian tale ...

**Continued on Page 5**



## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know



⇒ From **new SOB Marc McDaniel** in **late March**: Elementary! **Sherlock Holmes** spotted at **Port Townsend Victorian Fest** last weekend.

⇒ From **Friend of The SOBs' Carl Heifetz**: I'm very

happy to announce the publication of my recent book "**Sherlock Holmes Through the Microscope**". Thanks to MX publishing for an outstanding job. (<https://strandmag.com/.../sherlock-holmes-through-.../Publishing>) I hope you like it. G. Norton, Esquire.

⇒ Thanks to **SOB Nancy Holder**, who tipped off **PFL David** resulting in his forwarding this email blast on **April 1**:

From: I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere ([feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com](mailto:feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com))

Date: Sunday, April 1, 2018

Subject: **Moffat and Gatiss Confirm New Sherlock Series**

Fantastic news, eh?! Follow this link—[http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2018/04/moffat-and-gatiss-confirm-new-sherlock.html?utm\\_source=feedblitz&utm\\_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm\\_campaign=Express\\_2018-04-01\\_06%3A30&utm\\_content=45933#.Wtpb\\_zGWw0k](http://www.ihearofsherlock.com/2018/04/moffat-and-gatiss-confirm-new-sherlock.html?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_campaign=Express_2018-04-01_06%3A30&utm_content=45933#.Wtpb_zGWw0k)—and review the entire article to see if you can deduce the real message!!



⇒ **Noted SOB Bill Mason, BSI** in **late March**: Found today at the local coffee-stop "**The Historic Perk**" in downtown Springfield, TN, across the street from my office—**Sherlock Gnomes** cookies the day after the movie's premiere!!

⇒ From **SOB Jean Macdonald**: In a recent AARP issue, it was noted that **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** is now **70 years of age**, and the NBA great is a big Sherlock fan! He penned a thriller about the detective's brother Mycroft back in 2015. If you missed it, Titan Books' paperback reprint (June 2016) can be found very cheaply on the web.



⇒ From **SOB Margie Deck for Crafters**: Sent out a "thank you" note recently and the card I sent was admired for its **Sherlockian** theme. It was made with paper purchased from Graphic45 Papers. To order, go

to: <https://g45papers.com/master-detective-collection>.

⇒ **Directly from MX Publishing**: Now out is **Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Case-Files** by Mark Mower. "Mower's name should be familiar as a regular contributor to the MX Anthologies of New Sherlock Holmes stories. This handsome book of seven adventures gathers together five of his tales from those volumes with two new stories...Mower has an engaging, readable style, carrying the reader along with convincing dialogue whilst combining a good eye for period detail with well-paced plotting. Overall, an impressive collection."

—per The Sherlock Holmes Society of London

## Changing Things Up on our Annual Wreath Throw!

We'll begin our event, **FIRST**, with **LUNCH** at the **Falls Terrace Restaurant** in Tumwater at **11:30 a.m.** **AFTER LUNCH** we'll make our trek to the Falls at approximately **1:30 p.m.** for the wreath throw, photos and champagne toasts.



⇒ **Dated, but Still Timely, from SOB Margaret Nelson**: An October 2017 issue of the New York Times (10/10/2017) featured this headline—"A Giant Rat is Spotted, And Not in New York". The brief article notes: "Locals living in Vangunu in the Solomon Islands sing songs about a giant, tree-dwelling rat that can crack open coconuts with its teeth. But scientists had never seen it. ■ Now the Vangunu **Giant Rat** is scientific fact...A ranger at the Zaira Resource Management Area on the island found an injured specimen scampering away from a felled tree. It's the first new rat species discovered there in 80 years."

⇒ **Writes SOB Bill Seil**: Previously released six years ago but long discontinued, Mill Creek Entertainment brought back "**Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century—The Complete Series**" to DVD on April 3. The re-release is priced at \$19.98...

Continued on Page 5

## The SOBs Turn 38, Celebrated at Our Anniversary Tea

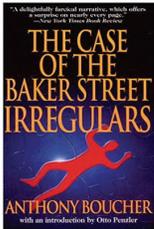
Once again we had a wonderful time at the home of Carrol Clemens when we celebrated our 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As usual there was way too much food, but the right amount of conviviality. If you missed the event this year, mark it down as something to do next year. It is a very relaxed way to meet and eat with your fellow SOBs.



Photos by Margie Deck.

**An Oldie But Goodie...**

Continued from Page 3



...using titles from Watson’s unrecorded adventures: “The Singular Affair of the Aluminum Crutch”, “The Adventure of the Third Captain”, “Colonel Warburton’s Madness”, “The Remarkable Case of the Venomous Lizard” and “The Adventure of the Old Russian Woman”. But did they help?

If you don’t remember or if you’ve never read the story, and if you decide to read it now, I believe you’ll agree with Mr. Sandoe’s opinion. If you want to get your own copy, Amazon, surprisingly, has very inexpensive copies available. So much for me thinking I had a valuable treasure Caleb Shaw (*David Baldacci’s Camel Club’s Library of Congress rare book librarian*) would be eager to get his mitts on!!

**More Things to See, Buy**

Continued from Page 4

...SRP for a 2-disc set, and this version also includes digital copies of the episodes as a bonus, available via MCE’s proprietary digital streaming service. “*After Sherlock Holmes is brought back from the dead, he is rejuvenated to that of a 25 year-old to help good friend Inspector Beth Lestrade battle an unprecedented crime wave wreaking havoc on this peaceful future. To assist Holmes, the personality of his loyal friend and companion, Dr. John Watson, is programmed into the brain of an android.*”

⇒ **From SOB Ann Milam:** I keep finding more Sherlockian-related stuff! To **hear a recording of Doyle’s voice**, go to this link: <http://www.open-culture.com/2014/05/voice-of-arthur-conan-doyle-before-and-after-his-death.html>. But there’s a wrinkle to this: It seems that 4 years after his death in 1930 a “medium, Noah Zerdin, held a séance attended by hundreds, and Conan Doyle is said to have been one of 44 who spoke from the beyond. This time, the event was recorded, on 26 acetate disks, which were only discovered 67 years later in 2001 by Zerdin’s son,



**NEEDED: A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE ON OUR “CLUB LIBRARIAN” POSITION**

**SOB Sheila Holtgrieve**, our Club Librarian since 2011, has decided it’s time to turn this responsibility over to another Member!

The two (2) bins containing our Library’s contents are easily lifted—one at a time—but Sheila’s home has a set of 40 steps to get up and down and bringing bins to meetings is a struggle for her!!

Our Reference Librarian position includes: a) maintaining in good order the 52 pieces in our “reference books catalog” and 22 items (a couple of sets) in our “A/V catalog”; b) filling Members’ requests—from our website, by email or personal request—to borrow any item from either catalog; c) periodically bringing sample items to local meetings; and d) writing a brief summary of any new book added to the reference catalog for publication in this newsletter’s “Librarian’s Corner”.

This is a valued job in The SOBs, but it shouldn’t require more than a couple of hours of your time each month!! If you have the time and talent—or you know another SOB who does—we can sure use the help!

Can we count on you? If so, please email PFL David and Librarian Sheila as follows:

**PFL David:** [david@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:david@soundofthebaskervilles.com)  
**Librarian Sheila:** [sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com)



who donated them to the British Library.” I had chills running up my spine when I listened!

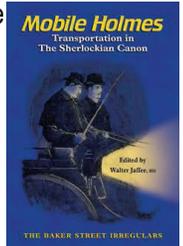
⇒ **From Peter Blau of the Spermaceti Press:**

● **“Whodunnit Popcorn: Blended for Mystery Lovers”** is available for \$14.<sup>95</sup>. The sound of crunchy popcorn adds to the suspense! Gourmet Rainbow Popcorn is made of a blend of yellow, blue, purple, red, and white popcorn kernels. Go to Acorn on line at: [https://www.acornonline.com/cgi-bin/hazel.cgi?ACTION=SEARCH\\_SPRING&q=popcorn](https://www.acornonline.com/cgi-bin/hazel.cgi?ACTION=SEARCH_SPRING&q=popcorn)



● **“Baker Street Reveries: Sherlockian Writings 2006-2016”** by Les Klinger (Gasogene Books, \$23.95)—a sequel to his “Baker Street Rambles” (2008)—reprints his more recent essays, including his checklist (unfortunately or perhaps fortunately not illustrated) of Sherlockian pornography. Both of Les’ books are available Gasogene is at [www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com).

● **“Mobile Holmes: Transportation In The Sherlockian Canon”**, edited by Walter Jaffee (\$21.95, BSI), is a delightful anthology of essays, from traveling on foot (Catherine Cooke’s “What D’You Say to a Ramble Through London?”) to traveling aloft (Chuck Winge’s “Sherlock Holmes and Aeroplanes”). For more, go to: <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/mobileholmes.html>.



**Answers to “Yellow Face” Quiz on Page 2**

1. No one else could solve them either.
2. An old briar with an amber stem; 7 shillings and 6 pence.
3. Grosvenor mixture at 18 pence an ounce; a fly in the amber.
4. Grant Munro; Mrs. Effie Hebron.
5. It was written in the lining of the man’s hat.
6. A full length portrait of his wife on the mantelpiece.
7. Atlanta in America; her husband and child died of yellow fever.
8. She was being blackmailed.
9. The Crystal Palace.
10. A portrait of her first husband.
11. That he was a better man than she gave him credit for being.
12. Norbury.



The Sound of the Baskervilles By appointment of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria

## Ineffable Twaddle

The monthly publication of The Sound of the Baskervilles A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980 Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

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*The Sound of the Baskervilles ...is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.*

*\$20 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.*

*Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.*

*Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Celebration" honoring the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December). Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.*

*To join or to renew your membership, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.*



## Member News & Notes

⇒SOBs attending our **Anniversary Tea on April 7, 2018** at **Carroll Clemens'** home were:

Lauren Messenger	Terri Haugen	PFL David
Margaret Nelson	Al Nelson	Margie Deck
Shannon Wallace	Judy Lyen	Cara Cross
Jean Macdonald	Sunny Even	Geoff Jeffrey
Sheila Holtgrieve	Nancy Holder	

● **Geoff** brought a couple of cool Sherlockian spoons to the event, which he gifted to our hostess Carrol to add to her spoon collection! (see photo at right) ★ We had a guest joining us there also: **Colleen Patrick** who relocated from King County recently and lives nearby Carrol! We gave her a Membership App and hope Colleen will join us soon! ★ Missing that day but saying "Hi!" over the phone was **SOB Cameron Brandon**, who was visiting family in Spokane! ★ See more about our Anniversary Tea on Page 5!

⇒SOBs attending our **April 15, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting** in Seattle, presided over by PFL David Haugen, were:

Lauren Messenger	Terri Haugen	Stephen Adkins
Margaret Nelson	Al Nelson	Margie Deck
Shannon Wallace	Larry Raisch	Alex Snow
Cameron Brandon	Sunny Even	Airy Maher
Sheila Holtgrieve	Chris Berwald	Judy Lyen
Melinda Michaelson	Melanie Briganti	
Vivika Sundqvist		

● Our guest at this meeting was again **Dawn Jaekl**, who also attended our Masters' Celebration in March; she notes she's still working on joining! ★ Because of a conflict in July with the Library's schedule, we **decid-**

**ed to move our Meeting to July 22**; please modify your calendars! ★ **Margaret N** brought a dozen or so hand-made glass coasters she had her neighbor make for her. The image is of a baying hound and was produced in many different colors; we "stole" them from her for \$5 apiece! Wow!

● **New Program Chair Found!** As indicated above, **SOB Sunny Even** has joined the SOB Board as our new **Program Chair!** She took over right after our April 15 meeting and her first story comments can be found on Page 2 of *this* issue! Sunny replaces **SOB Margie Deck**, who had been doing the work of managing our meeting content for the last two years, and happily met with Sunny, explaining the tasks of that position! Thanks to you both, Ladies!

● We learned recently that **SOBs Kashena Konecki**, our Vice President, and **Cameron Brandon** both started new jobs in mid-April!! She's still at Children's; and he's still a systems network engineer but with a new company and working in the SODO area. Kudos!



More photos from our Anniversary Tea by Margie Deck.

The SOBs' 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Throw, Saturday, May 5, Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Falls Terrace Restaurant in Tumwater, WA. Followed by the Wreath Throw at 1:30 at Tumwater Falls Park, also in Tumwater  
 Details on Page 1

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, May 20, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle  
 Details on Page 2

Regular Monthly Meeting, Sunday, June 17, 1:30 p.m. at Queen Anne Library, Seattle

**JULY EVENTS:**  
 Regular Monthly Meeting on July 22 & Watson Picnic on July 28