

Whatcom Writers & Publishers

November 2010

www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org



Meeting: Wednesday, November 17 — 6:00 p.m.
Pastazza's — Barkley Village

RSVP: by Monday, Nov. 15, to Carolyn, 714-8901 or cdleeper@hotmail.com
(we need to give the restaurant a count for seating arrangements)

Speaker: Nanette J. Davis, Ph.D.



Nanette Davis is currently in the throes of writing a second edition for her book, *Blessed is She: Elder Care ~ Women's Stories of Choice, Challenge and Commitment*. The book is based on interviews with 60 women who were actively involved in caregiving their loved one. Questions invariable arise:

1. What is a second edition?
2. Why write one?
3. Who are you impressing with a second go-around?
4. How will the second writing be any improvement over the first one?
5. When can it be concluded and the book back in circulation?
6. Where will it be published?

Nanette will address these issues as well as focus on the hazards and highpoints of writing in this special genre called: Second Editions.

Nanette J. Davis, Ph.D. is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology and a contributing faculty member for the office of Extended Education and Summer Programs at Western Washington University. During her tenure at Chapman University, she was instrumental in implementing a new criminal justice program for use at two campuses in the Northwest. She taught for more than 18 years at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. She has also taught at The University of Sydney Law School, The Flinders University of South Australia and Southern Cross University.

Over the course of her career, Nanette has received numerous grants for studies on youth, homelessness, women, domestic violence and curriculum development. While a Senior Fulbright Scholar, she began an extensive research project in Australia, conducting interviews of homeless young women and the social welfare agencies that serve them over a three-year period; her findings appear in the book *Youth Crisis: Growing Up in the High-Risk Society*. She has worked as a consultant to federal, state and local agencies in the U.S.

Nanette received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University, completed her post-doctorate studies at Stanford University and brings more than three decades experience as a teacher, writer, advocate, researcher and lecturer. An authoritative source on issues relating to elders, women, families and youth, in addition to the sociological aspects of sexuality, her scholarly work includes nine books and more than 100 articles, encyclopedia entries, research reports, book chapters and reviews.

Whatcom Writers and Publishers serves the local writing and literary community in Bellingham, Washington, and the surrounding area. WWP is professional association of writers, freelance professionals, book authors, self-publishers, publishers, editors, proofreaders, book designers, booksellers, web designers, and others, all of whom are dedicated to promoting the written word, whether through fiction, nonfiction, or poetry.

Whatcom Writers and Publishers

P.O. Box 2342

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www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org

Susan Colleen Browne: President

Fred Su: VP/Program Director/Webmaster

Linda Scott: Treasurer

Pam Beason: Membership Chair

Carolyn Leeper: Newsletter Editor

(submit items to: cdleeper@hotmail.com)

Calendar

December: No Meeting

January 19: **Laura Kalpakian**,
renowned novelist.
Author of *The Memoir Club*
and *Educating Waverly*

February 16: **John Miles**,
author of *Komo Kulshan*

March 16: **Iris Jones** and **JoAnn Roe**,
travel writers

A Sampling of Writer's Conferences — They Are Everywhere!

Florida — From Pen to Pixel: Stepping It Up. — January 28-29, 2011
The Space Coast Writers' Guild Annual Writers Conference,
Cocoa Beach. www.scwg.org.

San Francisco Writers Conference — February 18-20, 2011
Mark Hopkins Hotel. Build a successful writing career. www.SFWriters.org

Whidbey Island Writers Conference — April 1-3, 2011
Friday in-depth workshops, Saturday Chat Houses, Sunday Publishing for the
2011 Mainstream Fiction, Genre Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Memoir, Children's Lit.
www.writeonwhidbey.com.

Redmond. Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators — April 16-17, 2011
20th Annual Writing and Illustrating for Children Conference. www.scbwi-washington.org.

Bellingham. The Chuckanut Writers Conference: *Inspiration into Action* — June 24-25
Jointly hosted by WCC Community Education and Village Books.
www.chuckanutwritersconference.com.

Oceanside. Oregon Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop — July 11-15, 2011
www.occbww.com

Edmonds Art Commission — Write on the Sound — October 1 & 2, 2011
Pre-conference September 30. www.ci.edmonds.wa.us.

WWP President's Message

Greetings!

It was great to see so many of you at the October meeting. To any newcomers: if I didn't get a chance to say "hi" at the meeting, I look forward to chatting with you at our November gathering.

Also, many thanks to those of you who filled out the survey, developed by Member Chair Pam Beason. The board is reviewing your input, and will be looking into the possibilities inspired by your suggestions and recommendations!

One issue that elicited lots of interest was expanding our Web site. To that end, the board is **seeking a Webmaster/mistress**. The site is actually a blog, and thus would not require a lot of technological know-how.

The WWP board is also looking at changing the venue for our monthly meetings. If you have suggestions, please pass them along to me, Carolyn Leeper, Fred Su, or Pam Beason for consideration.

One of the privileges of serving as WWP's President is the opportunity to be a cheerleader for our members' writing endeavors...and National Novel Writing Month provides one such occasion. So, I'd like to encourage all of you to dedicate yourselves to writing for the month of November. Do I sense some resistance? Maybe you're going on vacation this month. Or you don't write novels at all...Or you've decided you'd rather poke yourself in the eye with a sharp stick than crank out 50,000 words between the 1st and the 30th (as the official rules stipulate to "win" NaNoWriMo).

But why not put some serious effort toward the writing project of your choice? WWP member Sue Parsons has made a commitment in November to work on her memoir, while Pam Beason is really going to hunker down with her fiction. She will be polishing two manuscripts—one for final delivery to Berkley Prime Crime in December, and a new standalone suspense to put up as an ebook while her agent tries to sell it to a big publisher. In between those tasks (and her regular jobs of contract writing/editing and sleuthing), she'll also be working on converting her two screenplays to novels, to put online as ebooks (again, while her agent tries to sell them elsewhere). I'm guessing that in between all four projects, Pam is sure to work in 50,000 words!

Or, you might consider more modest goals: Plot a new short story or outline an article...freewrite for 15 minutes a day all month...or work on that synopsis you've been putting off. I'm finally going to start a novel that's been simmering inside for the last five years. Most writers can agree that a project flows especially well when you work on it every day!

And to share on of my favorite writer's quotes:
"There is no perfect time to write. There is only now."
Barbara Kingsolver

Susan Colleen Browne

Conference Report

Emerald City Writers' Conference 2010

By Susan Colleen Browne

Last month, I attended the Emerald City Writer's Conference, held annually at the Bellevue Hilton Hotel. Sponsored by the Greater Seattle Chapter of the Romance Writers of America (RWA), the weekend-long ECWC covers far more than simply romance writing. In fact, with the suspense and thriller, paranormal, fantasy, mystery, mainstream women's fiction, YA and Middle Grade genres under the large tent of RWA, this conference has something for just about everyone writing genre fiction.

The conference, priced between \$209 and \$249, includes two days of workshops, networking opportunities galore, and the chance to meet and pitch to literary agents and editors from NY publishing houses. One extra benefit for published authors is participating in a book fair held in one of the Hilton's large ballrooms. Attended by hundreds of enthusiastic readers, the book fair is run by the University Book Store, and each author gets a table to display book copies and marketing materials. I brought some homemade cookies as well; lots of interesting people stopped by to chat (true, it was probably the cookies), and I sold several copies of my memoir. Not bad, considering that there were many dozens of authors there, and the attendees were fiction fans!

After a four-year "sabbatical" from novel writing, I was particularly focused on seeking inspiration and motivational tips...and I wasn't disappointed. Here are a few highlights from the workshops I attended:

One author shared her favorite writing tip: **the 15 minute trick**. Even if she doesn't feel like writing, she'll give herself 15 minutes to brainstorm her plot, or do some character journaling. Almost always, she ends up writing far longer than 15 minutes.

Another speaker is actually making a living (that is, supporting herself and her young daughter) as a digitally published author. That tells me that *ebooks* and *epublishing* are becoming a viable option!

The most energizing workshop was led by Bob Mayer, a former Green Beret, and now a multi-published author who also publishes his own ebooks. He gave a two-hour program that covered conceiving a story and character development, as well as marketing and bookselling. He mentioned the "crap," as many writers think of it, that goes into your first draft. "It's not crap," he said, "you put it in there for a reason." So anything you can't use for the story you're working on, you can use for another one.

This author is also a master salesman: Sales Tip #1: Put your book in people's hands—it makes a big difference when it comes to making a sale. Sales Tip #2: Display the price of the book where people can easily see it! (Since, he said, folks generally don't like to ask "how much.")

(continued)

Conference Report (continued)

The authors speaking at this conference are generally very productive writers with many published books, and not coincidentally, are big proponents of goal-setting. My favorite workshop was a panel with authors Jane Porter, Liza Palmer, and Megan Crane. Their advice:

Liza keeps track of her daily page count by writing it on her kitchen calendar. Megan keeps a log of her word count each day. (When I'm writing a novel, I keep a log of my word count as well, and in my experience, it's extremely motivating!)

All three authors advised that you set a daily writing goal—something concrete and specific, that you can achieve in one day's writing session. For instance, to complete a scene, or write X number of pages. And bribe yourself as needed to get it done!

Liza recommends that you write your entire first draft before you share it with anyone—because you don't understand the story unless you finish it.

Megan said writers are always fighting the demons in their head, which keeps them from doing their work... "So just write one sentence." One sentence can get you started.

All three also asserted that writing is a muscle; you need to exercise it daily. And that you need to remind yourself daily that "Writing is my job."

One of the biggest pleasures of conference-going is the people you meet. At one meal, I met a young woman who is looking to start a backyard farm with her husband—she was a kindred spirit who gardens in the summer and writes in the winter—and she also bought one of my books!

At another, I met a WWU professor of sociology who was writing romance...and it turned out that she knew my mother, WWP member Dr. Nanette Davis, and was a fan of her book, *Blessed Is She!*

Have you attended a conference this year?
Are you planning on attending one or more conferences in 2011?
Submit your conference information for our newsletter!
Contact Carolyn Leeper, cdleeper@hotmail.com

Member's Announcements

Catching Your Own *Second Wind*: Redefining yourself during major life transitions Cami Ostman

Are you in the middle of a divorce? Recently married? Widowed?
Launching children from your home? Any number of transitions
in our lives can invite us to re-evaluate our goals and our life's direction.

No one knows this better than author (of *Second Wind: One Woman's Midlife Quest to Run 7 Marathons on 7 Continents*) and psychotherapist, Cami Ostman. Several years ago, facing divorce and plenty of fears and limitations, Cami took on a quest to run 7 marathons on 7 continents. Her experiences changed her life and convinced her that if she could live out an impossible dream, anyone could do it. In this workshop, Cami shares her secrets to catching a *Second Wind* that really takes you somewhere! Get ready for the new year and your New Year's resolutions. Take time out of the busyness of the season and join Cami in a retreat experience that will let you breathe for a day.

This workshop is for you if you.

- ~ *Have a childhood dream you still long to make come true*
- ~ *You've faced a crisis that has made you ask, "Who am I?"*
- ~ *You're burned out from your job or your life*
- ~ *You daydream about doing something extraordinary but can't seem to figure out how to pull it off*
- ~ *You've been struggling with a problem and you're ready to get out of your rut*
- ~ *You are re-evaluating your past and deciding how to move forward*

Finding Your Own Second Wind will give you a protected one-day retreat experience during which you will:

- ~ *Define your "second wind" dream, direction and/or goal*
- ~ *Understand what has held you back and how you can push through those barriers*
- ~ *Create a plan for building a support system*
- ~ *Become the author of your own self-definition*
- ~ *Celebrate every victorious step in your re-definition process*
- ~ *Get ready to achieve your dream, move in your new direction or reach your goal*

Date, time and location: Saturday, December 11. Chrysalis Inn & Spa
Nine a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (with a break for lunch on your own).

To sign up: Email Cami at clostman@aol.com.

!

To pay, go to www.camiostman.net to the "Workshops" button on the "Pay for Services" page. Cost is \$99.00 (checks are welcome - send to PO Box 29043, Bellingham WA 98228)
For more information, call: 206.890.8694

Member's Announcements

Webmaster: WWP's website is basically a "blog" and doesn't require a great deal of technical knowledge, but it does require regular updating. If you have a little time and are interested in taking on this task, contact WWP President Susan Colleen Browne: jbrowne@telcomplus.net.

Newsletter Columnist: The WWP newsletter needs a member writer who can do a monthly column . . . on whatever topic you chose: writing, conferences, people, etc. Contact Carolyn Leeper: cdleeper@hotmail.com.

Mary Michaelson! Friday, December 17, Bellingham Golf & Country Club. The Sudden Valley Women's Club **HOLIDAY GALA**, will feature **Mary Michaelson** and her band, *Travelin' Light*. This annual event will be a splendid sit-down luncheon with music, gift exchange (participation optional), raffle prizes and door prizes. Also featured will be special guest Alma Alexander, WWP member, Sudden Valley resident, and author of numerous books. WWP members are invited to join in the fun and festivity.

Cost is only \$20.00 pp for members and guests.

RSVP: Contact Carolyn Leeper, 714-8901

or email: cdleeper@hotmail.com.

Betty Scott! Betty's poem, "*Flirting at the Neighborhood Bakery*" won runner-up at the Surrey International Writer's Conference, October 22-24th. She will be offering the course *For the Love of Poetry* again in the winter quarter at Whatcom Community College, beginning February 9 - March 3rd, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Susan Colleen Browne's memoir, *Little Farm in the Foothills*, is now available in ebook format on the Kindle! You can check it out by clicking the Amazon.com link at www.littlefarminthefoothills.com.

Interested in simplifying your holidays? In November and December, Susan is blogging on the topic at www.littlefarminthefoothills.blogspot.com.

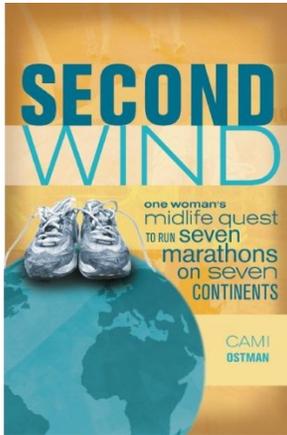
Membership Dues! 2011 Dues *Early Bird Special: \$20.00.*

You can pay the dues at the November meeting, or mail your check to:

Whatcom Writers and Publishers,
P.O. Box 2342, Bellingham, WA 98227.

See our website for more information:

www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org.



Second Wind: One Woman's Midlife Quest to Run Seven Marathons on Seven Continents

by Cami Ostman

A Back-of-the-Pack Runner Takes on the Ultimate Running Challenge and Discovers That Every Race Offers a Life Lesson

Cami Ostman never considered herself a runner, much less a long-distance runner. But after the end of an eleven-year marriage, trail running calmed her mind and gave her space to breathe. As her feet propelled her forward, her life began to change.

Second Wind: One Woman's Midlife Quest to Run Seven Marathons on Seven Continents is the story of an unlikely athlete and an unlikely heroine: Cami Ostman, a woman edging toward midlife, who decides to take on a challenge that stretches her way outside of her comfort zone. That challenge presents itself when an old friend suggests she go for a run to distract her from the grief of her recent divorce. Soon the old friend, now a romantic interest, invites her to Prague to run a marathon. Little does either of them know that this will be the first of many international marathons, and that it will ignite a quest to run seven marathons on seven continents.

Up hills and through flash floods, more often alone than with company, Ostman completes marathons from Japan to South America. Along the way she sheds her previous limitations, finding reserves of strength and drive to complete each race. Each marathon provides her with a different test, from overcoming loneliness to unleashing her inner bitch to claiming the warrior within. As Ostman runs countless miles, she learns about herself, not only as a runner, but as a woman—full of resilience and stamina. After years spent conforming to others' needs and desires, marathons allow her to break through her restrictions and become the person she wants to be.

The quest to run all seven marathons becomes Cami's vision quest. Her adventures—and the personal revelations that accompany them—will inspire others to take chances, find truth in their lives, and learn to listen to the voice inside them that's been there all along.

Readings:

Monday, November 1/ 7:30 at [Powells in Portland, Oregon](#).

Friday, November 5/ 5:30 at [Fact and Fiction in Missoula, Montana](#).

Saturday, November 6/ 2:00 at [Auntie's Books in Spokane, WA](#).

Friday, November 12/ 7:00 at [Village Books in Bellingham, WA](#).

Friday, November 19/ 7:00 at [Ravenna Third Place Books, Seattle](#).

Friday, December 3/ 6:00 at Borders, Las Vegas, 6521 Vegas Blvd. South

Thursday, December 9/ 7:15 at [Fairhaven Runners, Bellingham, WA](#) - This one is both Bill and me.

For more info on *Second Wind* visit www.7marathons7continents.com

become a fan of [Second Wind](#) on Facebook

Seal Press· November 2010 - 300 pages - \$16.95 Paperback. ISBN 13: 978-1-58005-307-5

Link to trailer: <http://www.7marathons7continents.com/?p=367>

About the author: Cami Ostman is a licensed marriage and family therapist with publications in her field. She currently runs between twenty and forty miles each week as part of her own commitment to fitness and self-discovery. In her quest to run a marathon on every continent, she has been featured in several publications, including the *Mudgee Guardian* in Australia, the *Bellingham Herald* in Bellingham, and *La Prensa* in Chile. She completed her seventh continental marathon by running in Antarctica in March 2010. Cami lives in Bellingham.



*Humanities Washington
Inquiring Minds Speaker*

Mary Michaelson

*Finding Aunt Phoebe
My Search for the True Life
of Phoebe Goodell Judson*

Blaine Library

Wednesday, November 10

7:00 p.m.

Mary Michaelson, author and assistant curator for the Lynden Pioneer Museum is also the sole proprietor of “Aunt Phoebe’s Corner,” which conducts historical research about Phoebe Goodell Judson and other pioneers in the Pacific Northwest. Her innovative research into the life of Phoebe Goodell Judson has revealed many surprising facts about this co-founder of Lynden, Washington, in 1870.

Says Mary, “If you just read Phoebe Judson’s book without my program, you will close the covers and say to yourself, ‘What a great book! She was a remarkable woman who led such an interesting life!’ But if you experience any of my program, you will realize that her life was ten times more interesting than the life she describes in her book!”

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Member's Websites & Blogs

Alma Alexander: www.AlmaAlexander.com,

www.anghara.livejournal.com,

www.heritageofclan.wordpress.com

Wendy Alex: www.inexpert.com

Pamela Beason: www.pbeditorial.com,

www.Thewildrosepress.com

Janey Bennett: www.palesurfaceofthings.com,

www.janeybennet.com

Dina Berry: www.dinaberry.com

Sandra Bowens: www.apinchof.com

Susan Colleen Browne:

www.susancoleenbrowne.com,

www.littlefarminthefoothills.com

www.littlefarminthefoothills.blogspot.com

Nanette Davis: www.nanettejdavis.com

<http://nanettejdavis.blogspot.com>.

Barbara Gilday: www.BarbaraGilday.com,

www.ghanatogether.com

Taimi Gorman: www.gormanpublicity.com

Richard "Dick" Harris:

www.richardleeharris.net

<http://blog.richardleeharris.net>

Dave Michaelson: www.emjajpublishing.com

Mary Michaelson: Blog: <http://auntphoesbecorner.blogspot.com>

Dorothy Morrow: www.TheGiftofRoots.com

Janet Oakley:

www.historyweaver.wordpress.com

Curt Remington: www.curtremington.com

Chuck Robinson: www.villagebooks.com,

www.facebook.com/villagebooks

JoAnn Roe: www.joannroe.com

Carol Cline Schultz:

www.CrossingTheVoid.com

Marion Spicher: www.marionspicher.com,

Blog: www.marionspicher.wordpress.com

Mary B. Stanton: www.siamwasourhome.com

Fred Su: www.bytewrite.com ,

www.stepbystepvolvo.com

Peggy Sullivan: www.love-prescription.com

Keith Turley: www.imagineds.com

Jerry Watson:

www.JerryLWatson.wordpress.com

Kate Weisel: www.weiselcreative.com

Lorraine Wilde: www.lorrainewilde.com

Susan Witter: www.mysoundideas.us

Member Favorites:

Dina Berry: (Literary Agents) www.jetreidliterary.blogspot.com,
www.pubrants.blogspot.com, www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog,
www.cba-ramblings.blogspot.com;
(For Writing) www.fictionmatters.com, www.storyfix.com;
(Editors) www.editorialanonymous.blogspot.com;
(Misc.) www.mediabistro.com/galleycat

Deck Deckert: GoodReads.com, LibraryThing.com, RedRoom.com,
SheWrites.com, WorldofBooks.com, Bookazine.com,
Bookarmy.com, BookGlutton.com, BookBuzzr.com

Judy Kleinberg: www.fridaville.com

Mary Michaelson: www.writersdigest.com/101BestSites/,
<http://bloodredpencil.blogspot.com>

Carl Steiner: <http://www.maxbarry.com>



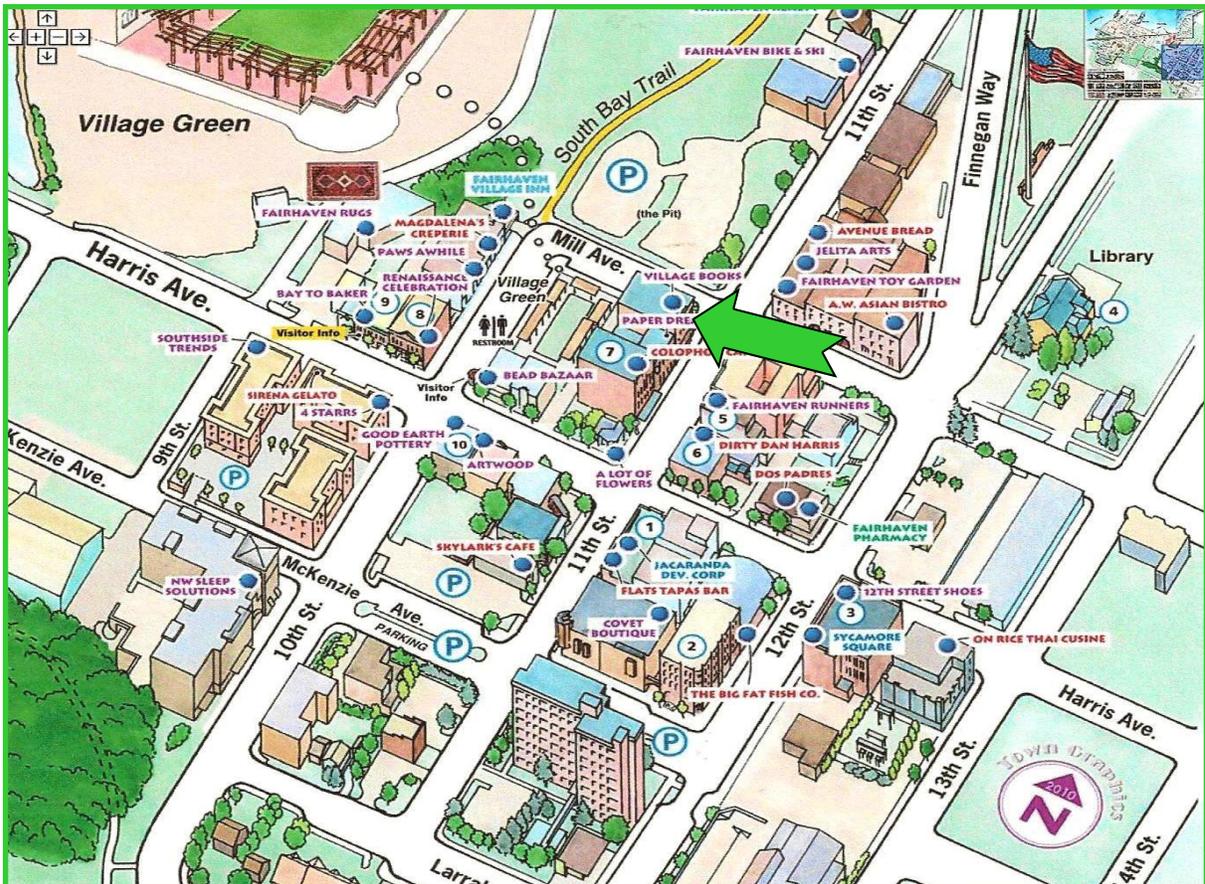
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