

Snohomish County

Gayzette

May 2012



Paul loves the great outdoors.

See more on Page 4.

The War on Dogs in Venice Beach

by John Marsh

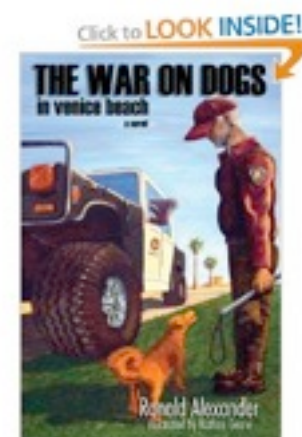
The book to read in April was The War on Dogs in Venice Beach by Ronald Alexander. We had a lively discussion at Jim's because the characters were not just good or bad, but complex people like everyone really is. One of the main characters, police officer Stanley, "General Smelzkoff," is at the end of his rope in dealing with the law-breaking dog owners who let their pets run freely at the beach, pooping and causing hazards (the dogs, not the owners). He plans and carries out a news-making sweep of the perpetrators.

At this time, his son comes back home to California. Stanley already knows his boy, Bobby, is gay. And that he doesn't understand him one bit. Who is this creature?

Bobby creates a satirical performance of Salome, calling it Salami, but will it be a hit? Will Stanley be able to express his growing love for Violet, an exotic dancer? Will Bobby tell his dad that he is sick? We at the book group all liked the personal revelations in the book, the realizations that the characters grew to understand that they loved and needed each other. But not to the point of corniness. At the end Bobby does not have a partner that he

wants so badly. But he has a community of support surrounding him, and he knows it.

Our book group gave the story an "8" average, which is a real good recommendation to read this novel.



May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 First Friday Dine Out, 6:00 QuilCeda Casino The Torch Grill	5
6 Bowling West Seattle, 9:30 carpool	7	8	9	10	11	12 Trailhead Hike, 10:00
13 Bowling, 9:30 Glacier Lanes	14	15	16	17	18	19 Poker, 6:30. Eric's
20 Bowling, 9:30 Glacier Lanes	21	22 TF planning meeting Robert's 6:30	23	24	25	26 Book Group, 11:00, Bob and John's
27 Bowling, 9:30 Glacier Lanes	28	29	30	31 Friendship Meal, 6:00		<u>The Empty Family</u> , by Colm Toibin

Wallace Falls Hike

by John Marsh

For the first hike of this year, we hiked up to Wallace Falls. The weather was nice on the Saturday morning, April 21. We had sun and a good temperature. A lot of other people had the same idea, and there were dogs and children galore at the trailhead outside Gold Bar. It's a long enough of a hike, though, that they were spread out up the mountainside and we could enjoy the quiet and ambiance of the woods and the cascading river that the trail followed. Lots of moss-covered trees, ferns, tall, tall cedars, firs, and hemlock. We didn't go all the way up to the top falls (like we did one time before), and felt that we had good exercise to get where we stopped and turned around. Chuck, photographer par excellence, could save some energy for a more strenuous hike on Sunday, and Paul S., Bruce, and I were happy to have made it to the big, tempestuous falls that we enjoyed. The temperature had fallen and it was cold because of all the water spray. We were satisfied and headed back down to lunch and the pretty drive home.



John at an overlook.