



# words

COMMUNITY • LECTURES • BOOKS

FOOD 30

CLASSIFIEDS 25

FILM 22

MUSIC 18

ART 16

STAGE 15

GET OUT 14

WORDS 12

CURRENTS 8

VIEWS 6

MAIL 4

DO IT 3

02.18.09

#07.04

CASCADIA WEEKLY

12

BY KALEB GUBERNICK

## Somewhere in Time

HERITAGE MUSEUM TAKES FLIGHT



PHOTO BY LYLE JANSMA

**IN AN** unassuming beige-colored building near Bellingham International Airport, the faint scent of oil and grease from rounds of aircraft maintenance wafts through the air. But the aircraft receiving upkeep aren't the massive, run-of-the-mill Boeing 747s or 757s. The dull gray bombers, bright yellow and blue training jets and M\*A\*S\*H\*-style rescue helicopters are reminders of the veterans who flew them and the wars they fought in.

After a short hiatus, the Heritage Flight Museum has moved into its new digs and opened up shop to the public. The property holding the first incarnation of the museum was sold late last year, and, as such, the museum had to pack up and take their aircraft and memorabilia displays with it.

Originally founded by William Anders, an astronaut on the Apollo 8 moon landing mission and taker of the famous "Earthrise" photograph, the museum was previously housed in a corporate jet hangar with a small entryway, leaving the entire contents of the museum to be displayed in one large space and shuffled around as their planes continued to be flown. But now the static displays have found a home in the front room of the new facility with about half of the museum's historic aircraft located in the back of the hangar.

Kate Simmons, the museum's director of programs and administration, says the relocation of the museum has been a welcome change, even though it required a slight downsize.

"It's all-around such a vast improvement," Simmons says. "It's hard to know where to start gushing about it."



### ATTEND

**WHAT:** Heritage Flight Museum Open House  
**WHEN:** 12-4pm Sat., Feb. 21  
**WHERE:** 4165 Mitchell Way  
**COST:** Suggested donation is \$5  
**INFO:** 733-4422 or [heritageflight.org](http://heritageflight.org)

The museum's core is built around a tight-knit group of staff and volunteers all giving a helping hand in any way possible, such as Jeff Geer, a jack-of-all-trades volunteer at the museum.

Geer says he has been a pilot at Bellingham International Airport since 1985 and has always been involved in aviation in some form. In 2004, he met Anders and, over time, became a good friend. When he learned of the museum, he dove in head-first to help with information technology and general

mechanical support along with a host of other jobs.

"I think it's one of those things where I certainly had a diverse background of experience that I could lend a hand with, and I just jumped in and started helping out without even asking," Geer says, laughing.

Both Geer and Simmons agree one of the most rewarding things about working with the Heritage Flight Museum is the appreciation they receive from the local veterans who stop by to reminisce about their past experiences with the aircraft.

"For me, as a pilot, the thing I enjoy is that we have a lot of veterans that come through," Geer says. "I spend time with the veterans and hear their stories. They've either flown on them or worked on them, and you see them light up.

"You can see them being transported back in time, leaning on the wing of the P-51 Mustang, and they kind of forget they're 80 years old. All of sudden they're 20 again and flying that plane. It's absolutely a gift." ☺

## WORDS

WED., FEB. 18

**MEXICO UNCONQUERED:** Learn more about the epic powers of violence and corruption in Mexico when John Gibler talks about his book, *Mexico Unconquered: Chronicles of Power and Revolt*, at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.

☎ 671-2626

THURS., FEB. 19

**MOTHER'S MEMOIR:** Debra Gwartney reads from her memoir, *Live Through This: A Mother's Memoir of Runaway Daughters and Reclaimed Love*, at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.

☎ 671-2626

FRI., FEB. 20

**STORY NIGHT:** Members of the Bellingham Storytellers Guild will share tales as part of Family Story Night at 7pm at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave. Kids 6 and older are welcome at the free event.

☎ 714-9631

**TWO FOR ONE:** Authors Alex Kuo and Judith Roche will read from their respective tomes at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.

☎ 671-2626

SAT., FEB. 21

**WORD NERD:** Join an interactive event for "kids of all ages" when Susin Nielsen shares her book, *Word Nerd*, at 2pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.

☎ 671-2626

MON., FEB. 23

**OPEN MIC:** Share your fiction, non-fiction or poetry at a monthly Open Mic at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.

☎ 671-2626

WED., FEB. 25

**DOUBLE BILL:** Poets Richard Robbins and Gary Thompson will share their words at a reading at 7pm at Village Books, 1200 11th St.

☎ 671-2626

## COMMUNITY

WED., FEB. 18

**SCHMOOZFEST:** Network at a Non-profit Schmoozefest happening from 4:30-6:30pm at the Chuckanut Brewery & Kitchen, 601 W. Holly St. The event is free and open to nonprofit staff, board members, volunteers and friends.

☎ [WCNWEBSITE.ORG](http://WCNWEBSITE.ORG)

**DINE OUT:** Help out Womenscare Shelter by dining out today and tonight at Bayou on Bay, 1300 Bay St. A portion of the proceeds will help the organization, which provides shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

☎ 671-8539

FEB. 19-28

**FILM FEST:** The 9th annual Bellingham Human Rights Film Fest begins Feb. 19 and continues through Feb.