

## **Women, Personal Leadership and the Power of a Promise – AWIS December Meeting**

by Jennifer O'Brien

Of the 20 or so audience members at our December meeting, almost everyone had some connection to a person who had or has breast cancer. **Lynn Hagerman**, Executive Director of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Puget Sound Affiliate, told us that this is typical. In 2006, about 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and about 40,000 will die from it. Since the creation of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation 25 years ago, the survival rate for those diagnosed has increased from 72% to 95%.

Nancy Brinker made a promise to her sister, Susan Komen, to do everything possible to help prevent breast cancer from taking the lives of other women. She started with the first Race for the Cure in Dallas, TX at a time when newspapers wouldn't even print the word "breast." Now the Foundation contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to research, education, screening, and treatment programs. Our local affiliate has awarded just over a million dollars in grants locally each year.

When Lynn was 32 yrs old, she was one of 3 females at the vice president level at GTE and has since been the VP of Planning and Business Development at Evergreen Healthcare and run her own consulting firm. Needless to say, she has encountered many hurdles as a woman during her career, and serves as an excellent example of a woman leader. She offered 3 pieces of advise for us. First, know yourself and your strengths. The happiest employees are those who are able to use their strengths on the job. Second, maintain practices or habits to help keep you grounded. Some examples include keeping a journal, exercising, or meditating. Third, find a community of support. Find a mentor, even a mentoring moment through an informational interview, to learn from those in the positions above you. Joining and working with AWIS is a great place to start!

For more information on our local Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and to learn how you can help, please see [www.komenseattle.org](http://www.komenseattle.org).

Thank you to everyone who attended the December AWIS program! We hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs!

## **Upcoming AWIS Programs**

### **January 17, 2007**

*Working Towards a Clean and Affordable Energy Future*

Speaker: Sara Patton  
Executive Director, NW Energy Coalition

### **February 21, 2007**

*Women in Academia Panel*

Panelists: Claire Horner-Devine, Eve Riskin, Joyce Yen, and others

**March 21, 2007**

*FDA Approval for the New HPV Vaccine, Gardasil*

Speaker: Laura Koutsky, PhD, MSPH  
Professor of Epidemiology, University of Washington

**April 18, 2007**

Speaker: Julie Lutz, PhD  
Professor of Astronomy, University of Washington  
Director of the [NASA Regional Educator Resource Center](#)

**May 16, 2007**

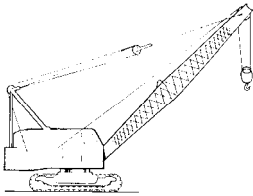
*Seattle Girls' School: Then and Now*

Speakers: Marja Brandon, Head of Seattle Girls' School  
Mary Margaret Callahan, Science Teacher

**June 20, 2007**

Summer Potluck, Woodland Park

**Construction Alert!!**



Don't be surprised by the massive construction effort going on at 815 Mercer St. Although the entire parking lot is being converted into a new addition for the South Lake Union Campus, the building is open for business and AWIS meetings! There is ample street parking in the blocks around the building. So please brave the construction and join us for our next meeting.

***Moms in Academia***

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by Fran Solomon

There was an excellent article in the October 28, 2006 issue of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* ([www.seattlepi.com](http://www.seattlepi.com)) about women who are combining university faculty careers with raising families. Following is a summary of the highlights of the article.

Although over half of the undergraduate students and half of the graduate students in the U.S. are women, only 35% of the tenured or tenure-track faculty positions are held by women. Whether and when to have children is a complicated decision for young women pursuing academic careers because the years for obtaining tenure coincide with the years for childbearing. Some women choose to have children before they obtain tenure; others find that the career-family combination is more feasible if they obtain tenure first.

Local universities such as the University of Washington (UW), Seattle Pacific University (SPU), and Seattle University (SU) allow faculty to take a year off the tenure clock to care for a newborn baby; that year is not included in the candidate's body of work when she comes up for tenure review. However, some women fear that taking time off will be counted against them, particularly in male-dominated fields such as science, math, and engineering.

These universities are trying to change the culture on campus so female faculty members feel supported. For example, UW provides five child care facilities and recently received a grant of \$250,000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to improve faculty career flexibility. The grant goals include expanding child care on campus, developing a support group for new moms, and informing tenure reviewers that taking a year off should not be held against a candidate for tenure. SPU organizes support groups for female faculty. SU is experimenting with a job share arrangement that lets two tenured faculty members work part-time. Hopefully, these family-friendly policies will help universities recruit and retain professors who are also moms.

### ***New Seattle AWIS Logo needed!***

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AWIS-SA, the Seattle area chapter of AWIS is looking to create a new logo. If you have a great idea for a logo, please share it with us. You can speak with any of the board members at the AWIS meetings or you can email us at [awisnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:awisnewsletter@yahoo.com).

### ***Scholarship Committee – An Update***

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by Fran Solomon

Several Seattle AWIS members, Microsoft employees, and King County employees have already contributed to the 2007 scholarship fund. Thank you very much for the good start on this year's fund! I want to encourage everyone else to renew your contribution from last year or to begin a new contribution. Just write a check to "AWIS-SA Scholarship Fund" and mail it to me at 5805 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Seattle, WA. 98105. Your contribution is 100% tax-deductible. The entire amount will be used for scholarships for undergraduate women who are majoring in a science field at colleges and universities in Washington, are strongly motivated to pursue a career in that field, and are good students with financial need who give back to their communities. For more information about the Seattle AWIS' scholarship program and the eight outstanding future scientists who received scholarships in 2006, see the article in the September 2006 newsletter or contact me ([fsolomon3@earthlink.net](mailto:fsolomon3@earthlink.net)). I look forward to receiving your contributions to the scholarship fund.

### ***AWIS January Meeting – Donations for Noel House***

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AWIS will be collecting toiletry donations for Noel House at our January Meeting. Noel House is a charity that supports "shelter, safety, dignity and compassion for women." Their top ten list of donation needs are listed below, but anything you can donate (including time and money) would be greatly appreciated. Please visit their website at [www.noelhouse.org](http://www.noelhouse.org)

1. Twin blankets, sheets (new or in good condition)
2. Cough and cold medication
3. Deodorant
4. Feminine hygiene supplies
5. Gift certificates for fast food restaurants
6. Towels and washcloths (gently used and new)
7. Coffee shop gift certificates
8. Combs, brushes and hair care products
9. Drink mixes, coffee and coffee supplies
10. Bleach, detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies

## **AWIS-Seattle 2006-2007 Board Members**

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### **General Business**

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### **Scholarship Donations**

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