

**Seattle Chapter Meeting  
Wednesday, September 28, 2005**

College Club of Seattle  
505 Madison Street, Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 622-0624

**Social Hour** 5:30 pm  
**Dinner** 6:30 pm  
**Speaker** 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Menu**

**Salad** College Club Salad Supreme  
**Entrée** Beef Stroganoff - or -  
Stir-fried Vegetables (Vegetarian option)  
**Sides** Broccoli Hollandaise, Baked stuffed tomato  
**Dessert** Sherbet

Members/Faculty	\$25.00
Guests	\$27.00
Student Members	\$17.00
Student Guests	\$19.00
Coffee Only	\$ 3.00

**Reservations**, even if selecting the coffee only option, need to be made by **1 pm, Thursday, Sep 22**, in order to guarantee a spot. Standing reservations will apply. For **reservations**: use the **Online Reservations Form**, send email to [reservations@aswaseattle.com](mailto:reservations@aswaseattle.com), or contact Nina Buffington, Arrangements Chair, (206) 467-8645 (ASWA voice mail).

For **cancellations**, please call, use the online form, or send an email to cancel no later than noon on **Monday, September 26**, before the meeting. No-shows and late cancellations will be billed. Walk-ins are welcome but with no meal availability guarantee.

**Wednesday, September 28, 2005  
Dinner Meeting**

Latest research on the symptoms of ovarian cancer – Empowering information every woman should know

**Speaker - Lynn Mandel**

Early detection saves lives – When ovarian cancer is detected early, over 90% of women survive. New research dispels the myth that ovarian cancer has no symptoms, in fact, the majority of women have symptoms, even at early stage.

Knowing the symptoms commonly associated with ovarian cancer could increase a woman's chance of early detection. This presentation empowers women to become more proactive about their health and replaces fear with fact.

**Lynn Mandel, Ph.D.** is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Department of Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Lynn has been teaching and doing ovarian cancer and gynecologic cancer research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Washington since 1995. She is co-author of the "Ovarian Cancer Symptoms Study" which was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in June 2004.

Lynn has numerous publications and national and international presentations on this topic to her credit and participates as an editorial reviewer for leading national journals and publications. She recently was awarded top honors in oral presentations by the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics at their annual meeting in Salt Lake City. Lynn's hobbies include photography and biking and fishing.



American Society of Women Accountants  
Box 237  
800 5th Avenue, Suite 101  
Seattle, WA 98104-3191

## President's Message September 2005

As the Gregorian calendar progresses into September we are reminded of the beginning of a new year – this, of course, is the new *school* year. Our memories center on cooling days, sweater sets and plaid skirts, carrying our Pee-chee's and large tomes for our classes. In other word, we focus on our days as Students. We are in the comfortable position of having already attained our degrees and credentials, but as an Organization, it is time to consider and give due thought to those of our members who are still students.

One of our goals this year is to generate more student involvement in chapter activities.

In the next few months we have several events and activities that help us center our focus on our student members.

In September, Seattle Chapter will host the joint annual Fall Seminar with North Cascade Chapter of ASWA (see calendar). 12 hours of outstanding CPE are offered, as well as lively interaction with our comrades from Bellingham and the surrounding area. If you haven't yet registered, please go to our website ([www.aswaseattle.org](http://www.aswaseattle.org)) for contact information.

October 26<sup>th</sup> is our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Scholarship Dessert Auction – our single Scholarship fundraising event of the season. Since the inception of the scholarship awards program at ASWA Seattle in 1962, we have given over \$130,000 in scholarship awards. You can participate in several ways before, during or after the auction; or if you prefer, you can simply reply to the pre-event solicitation mailing and remit a check in support of the Scholarship Fund (immediate scholarship award funding). Alternately, you can write your check payable to the ASWA Scholarship Endowment Fund, which increases the Fund's principal in perpetuity (only the income from the Fund is available for scholarships).

And in November (16<sup>th</sup>) we'll host our annual Student Night – always well-attended, always needing some subsidized funding, and a great venue for interaction with students, both members and non-members. To assist in the event, please contact Mary at: [maryf@bigsandlittles.org](mailto:maryf@bigsandlittles.org).

Getting our students involved allows them to grow, and encourages each of you to stretch also. One way to gain leadership skills is through participation. Please consider what you are able to do to help us accomplish this goal. And in case I forgot to ask, what can I do to help?

Liz Pray  
[president@aswaseattle.org](mailto:president@aswaseattle.org)



\*\*\*\*\*

**Speaker Notes-August**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The New Bankruptcy Act**

**Kenneth C. Weil**

Mr. Weil provided two very informative and lengthy handouts: "Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 Law and Explanation", and "Resolving Your Client's Tax Liabilities: Tax Code and Bankruptcy Code Remedies".

Three things for a tax practitioner to bear in mind:

Anyone who provides paid advice on the new bankruptcy law for consideration is considered a "Debt Relief Agency"; there are many new and complex requirements to meet. Thus when providing advice on the bankruptcy law, don't get paid for it.

The new bankruptcy law goes into effect on October 17, 2005. It will be more difficult for consumers to file after this date, and for the most part Chapter 13 will not be available to the average debtor. It will also most likely be more expensive to declare after 10/17.

Abuse Testing pertains to consumer debt, and tax debt is not consumer debt. The legislation is further quite ambiguous on how to apply the means and abuse tests.

Mr. Weil described the history of the Bankruptcy legislation in detail:

The 2005 Bankruptcy Bill is a historical document, written in 1997. Many issues and cases have since been resolved, and this is not necessarily reflected in the 2005 bill. Research and committees on bankruptcy reform commenced in 1994; the 1997 draft disregarded many of the recommendations of these committees. The bill came close to being signed into law several times over the preceding eight years. The bill was finally passed in 2005 after the death of Paul Wellstone, a Minnesota senator vehemently opposed to the bill, as well as other shifts in the political climate.

One positive on the new bill is that it fixed the discrepancies between state and federal rules that occurred as a result of the last major bankruptcy legislation in 1978/1980.

In summary, the new bankruptcy law is quite ambiguous and out of date in many areas. It will take some time to resolve the issues as they arise. Many provisions of the law will make it more difficult, more expensive, and more unpleasant for a debtor to file for bankruptcy, without fully resolving the basic issue of bankruptcy abuse.

--Janet Stebbins

\*\*\*\*\*

**Former ASWA President  
 Honored by Senior Services**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Alice W Sandstrom**, recently honored for her contributions to ASWA by the Seattle Chapter, is one of Senior Services' Shining Stars for her many years of amazing contributions to our community. Since Alice's retirement as CFO of Children's Hospital, a position she held for 32 years, she has continued to give much of her time and talents to many of Seattle's human service organizations including the YWCA of Seattle-King County, Children's Hospital Foundation, and Senior Services. Alice served as president of Senior Services' Board of Directors from 1988-1990. At age 91, Alice continues to support her beloved Senior Services as an active Board Member. Alice has worked tirelessly to make life better for thousands of seniors over many years. She continually inspires the staff and Board of Directors at Senior Services with her gift of laughter and her love for the elderly in our community. She is truly a Shining Star and a great role model for us all.

Friday October 7, 2005  
 Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers Grand Ballroom  
 Silent Auction and Reception 5:30, Dinner and live auction 7:30 pm  
 Individual tickets \$150  
 RSVP by September 23, 2005  
 For more information please call 206-727-6267 or email [soiree2005@seniorservices.org](mailto:soiree2005@seniorservices.org)

**ASWA/Seattle University  
 Fall Seminar  
 September 9-10**

Go to website to see if there are still openings or e-mail [fallseminar@aswaseattle.org](mailto:fallseminar@aswaseattle.org).



**American Society of Women Accountants**  
 Box 237  
 800 5th Avenue, Suite 101  
 Seattle, WA 98104-3191

\*\*\*\*\*

ASWA/ASWCPA Joint Conference In Philadelphia, PA  
 September 28-30

\*\*\*\*\*

The 2005 ASWA/AWSCPA Joint Inspired Solutions Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is just 4 weeks away! This year's conference is set in the historical city of Philadelphia during September 28-30 at the Loews Hotel. Your conference committee has structured the program to allow attendees to maximize both their professional education and their *personal* time.

Philadelphia has so much to offer - it is a dynamic place where big city excitement meets hometown charm. Famous as the birthplace of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the cradle of liberty offers much more than cobblestone streets and historical landmarks. New and one-of-a-kind attractions, a wealth of art and culture, renowned performing arts companies, awe-inspiring architecture, a walkable downtown, seemingly endless shopping (with no tax on clothes!) and a restaurant renaissance that has caught the world's attention all promise to create an unforgettable Philadelphia experience.

The Philadelphia Chapter of ASWA has captured everything that you would possibly want to do **While You're in Philadelphia** at this link on their Web site - from dining, to shopping, to museums, tours and so much more! Just click on the link to start making your plans!

Have you registered yet? You may **register online** now and you may also view the **preliminary program** online at these links.

**Hotel Reservations:** Please note that we have received notification from the Philadelphia Loews Hotel that regrettably, the hotel has been oversold during our JNC conference dates. Representatives from Loews wanted us to relay their apologies for this inconvenience. **For those attendees who are in need of room reservations, we urge you to call "A Room With A View" for hotel overflow assistance at 1-800-780-4343.** They will secure the lowest available rate as close as possible to the Loews Hotel. This is a free service for all ASWA/AWSCPA attendees.

*Erin Tanner*  
 ASWA Administrator  
 8405 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800  
 McLean, VA 22102  
 703-506-3265 - t  
 703-506-3266 - f  
 www.aswa.org



\*\*\*\*\*

## Beware of the Top 5 Interview Mistakes

\*\*\*\*\*

We've all heard stories of job candidates who looked great on paper but who were absolute disasters in person. With fewer interview opportunities available in our competitive job market, it's essential to make the best possible first impression. Learn from the mistakes of others and avoid these top five worst interview blunders:

### 1. Not preparing for the tough interview questions.

Like every job seeker, you probably have your own set of tough interview questions you hope will never be asked. The best strategy is to prepare ahead of time with answers to ALL of these questions. A career coach can be a great resource for helping you work out suitable answers with a positive spin on negative or challenging career situations.

### 2. Failure to match communication styles.

Making a great first impression is easier to do when you communicate effectively with your interviewer. The best way to do this is by mirroring his or her communication style. Allowing your interviewer to set the tone of the conversation will put him or her at ease and makes the conversation flow more naturally.

For instance:

- \* If the interviewer seems all business, don't attempt to loosen him or her up with a joke or story. Be succinct and businesslike.
- \* If the interviewer is personable, try discussing his or her interests. Often personal items on display in the office can be a clue.
- \* If asked a direct question, answer directly. Then follow up by asking if more information is needed.

### 3. Talking too much.

In my recruiting days, I abhorred over-talkative candidates, and so did most of my client employers who interviewed these candidates. Over-talking takes several forms:

- \* Taking too long to answer direct questions. The impression: This candidate just can't get to the point.
- \* Nervous talkers. The impression: This candidate is covering up something or is outright lying.

To avoid either of these forms of over-talking, practice answering questions in a direct manner. Using role-playing in preparing for your interview will help you avoid excessive, nervous talking.

### 4. Saying negative things about your current or past employers or managers.

Even if your last boss was Attila the Hun, avoid stating your ill feelings about the person or work situation. No matter how reasonable your complaints, your negative comments will be viewed as disrespect towards your boss. When faced with the challenge of talking about former employers, make sure you are prepared with a positive spin on your experiences.

### 5. Giving away too much salary and earnings information.

Candidates often weaken their future earning potential by speaking too freely about their current income. No matter the official salary range of the position you are interviewing for, your current earnings have an enormous effect on the size of the offer. Investing in a career coach to help you answer salary questions can add thousands of dollars to your new job offer.

You already know that it takes a strong resume that sets you apart as a candidate of choice to be invited for an interview. The next step is to hone your interviewing skills to actually win job offers. Polishing your interviewing skills can mean the difference between getting the job and being a runner-up.

Deborah Walker, CCMC  
 Career Coach ~ Resume Writer  
 Read more job-search tips and resume samples at  
[www.AlphaAdvantage.com](http://www.AlphaAdvantage.com)  
 Email: "deb@alphaadvantage.com"



\*\*\*\*\*  
**2005 Scholarship Dessert Auction**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**The annual ASWA Scholarship Dessert Auction is coming soon!**

Please mark your calendars for October 26 at the College Club in downtown Seattle. If you are unable to attend, you can always help by making a financial contribution to the ASWA Scholarship Fund or to the ASWA Scholarship Endowment Fund (this one grows in perpetuity. Members underwrite ALL EXPENSES of the auction so your entire donation will go directly to scholarship awards.

**Calendar of Events**

**Next Journal Deadline:**

**Wed, Sep 28, 2005**

The Seattle Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants, to serve its members' interests, publishes the Journal monthly.

If you have news, seminars, community meetings, committee meetings or an article you would like published, **attach the file (preferably in "Word") and send to Jan K Cobb via e-mail at [journal@aswaseattle.org](mailto:journal@aswaseattle.org).**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Sep 9-10         | <b>Fall Seminar, Seattle &amp; North Cascades Chapters</b><br><i>Best Western Exec Inn (Near Seattle Center), Seattle, WA</i>       |
| Sep 17           | <b>Quilt Construction-NWRC 2006 – 10am-3pm</b><br><i>Locations Vary, See Article, page 4</i>  |
| Sep 28           | <b>Board Meeting – 5:15pm</b><br><b>Dinner Meeting- Latest on Ovarian Cancer-Empowering Women, Lynn Mandel, Ph.D., College Club</b> |
| Sep 28-Oct 1     | <b>ASWA/ASWCPA Joint National Conference,</b><br><i>Philadelphia, PA</i>  |
| Oct 26           | <b>Board Meeting – 5:15pm</b><br><b>Dinner Meeting-Scholarship Dessert Auction, College Club</b>                                    |
| Nov 16           | <b>Board Meeting – 5:15pm</b><br><b>Dinner Meeting-TBA, College Club</b>  |
| Dec 21           | <b>Board Meeting – 5:15pm</b><br><b>Dinner Meeting-TBA, College Club</b>  |
| June 16-18, 2006 | <b>ASWA NW Regional Conference - Seattle, WA</b>  |

**ASWA Mission Statement**

The mission of the American Society of Women Accountants is to enable women in all accounting and related fields to achieve their full personal, professional, and economic potential and to contribute to the future development of their profession.

**ASWA Claim Statement**

For women who seek advancement in the accounting profession, ASWA is a professional membership organization that provides the leadership skills required for success. ASWA provides experienced mentors and a supportive, non-threatening environment to practice business management and establish a professional reputation among peers.