

e bloom magazine

BLOOM

ISSUE 01
AUGUST 2022



THE INAUGURAL ISSUE

WOMEN IN THE WORLD

A timeline of Women's Rights and a spotlight on the passionate youth of Bainbridge Island

PAINTING WITH WORDS

Find inside a collection of beautifully written poetry

CULTURAL CORNER

This issue shines a light on *Bharatanatyam*, a traditional dance form from India

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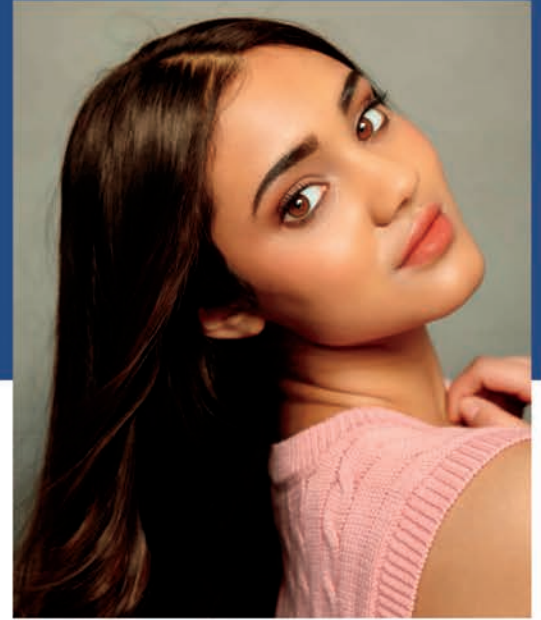
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We are always looking for submissions!
Visit our instagram @bloommmagazine
or email us
bloommmagazine@gmail.com

Editor's Note



WELCOME!

The idea of Bloom Magazine has been floating around for quite awhile, so actually seeing it in print and circulation is extremely exciting. I started thinking about this idea when I was walled up at home because of COVID. What a time that was - the only good that came out of it for me was finding my passion for writing. Bloom has truly allowed me to use my love of writing for good. Through this magazine, I hope to educate and inspire the community around me. As a team, we want to help our neighborhood grow and introduce to them the fresh and unheard voices of the youth.

Bloom Magazine is a student led publication centered on themes of Social Justice, Equality, Diversity, Environmental Issues, and Equity. We are here to serve the youth of our community as a safe space to be vulnerable and share your thoughts with those around you. From news-report style articles to creative short stories and everything in between, Bloom has saved a space for you.

Sai Prakash

Editor-in-Chief and Founder



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Meet the Staff



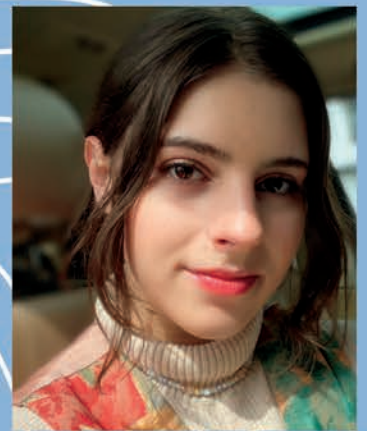
Sai Prakash

Editor-in-Chief and Founder

Hello! I am an incoming BHS senior and an aspiring writer. I have always been intrigued by reading and writing creative stories. I started writing for the local newspaper in middle school and published my own piece of children's literature, titled "I Can Be," in my second year of high school. Now, I am working on Bloom magazine and am so excited to see where this goes! Alongside my interest in writing, I am an Indian classical dancer and I love to travel.



Hi! I'm an incoming BHS senior branching out of my comfort zone of competitive dance. This summer I've been working on web design and development. Bloom has been a great endeavor to practice the creative side of web dev and allow me to also keep writing! I love creating things whether it be code, poetry, movement, or art.



Sarai Schwartz

Director of Design

why bloom?

We came up with the name "Bloom" by thinking about what we wanted to accomplish with our magazine. Bloom is an educational platform where we can all come together to share our opinions on things we care about. As the community reads the magazine's content, we hope our minds bloom into something more accepting and kind.

We know printing a magazine isn't exactly environmentally friendly, but they are a great way to easily spread knowledge - and they're super fun to read!

Bloom wants to continue our journey on the sustainability road. Currently, we use 30% recycled paper to print our pages. We plan to switch to 50% recycled paper and soy-based ink for Issue 02! Our goal is to be one of the first sustainably sourced magazine on Bainbridge.

How Music Brings Us Together

by Eilise Ohartigan



Music: it's a form of art, self-expression, and storytelling. It can be therapeutic, intimate, energizing, solemn, or proud; it's incredibly versatile, appealing to different emotions on different occasions. Through its versatility, different genres of music also appeal to different people. However, regardless of an individual's personal preferences, it's undeniable that music is one of the most powerful tools that brings us together. Learning someone's favorite song or band helps learn more about a person and form a connection. We bond over our favorite artists and bridges of songs. Through the varied ways we encounter and experience music, we forge connections and hope to grow closer to each other.

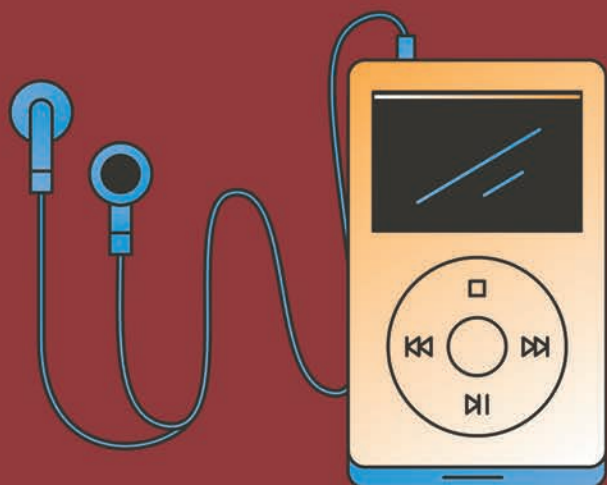
In today's digital society, we see music everywhere. It's in advertisements, youtube videos, and shopping centers. In the latest social media craze, music has taken over through Tik Tok—the main form of entertainment in my peers' phones.

Through the short videos featured on the app, music helps express different ideas or emotions, like comedy, social justice, empowerment, or simply joy and melancholy.

In addition, with music apps like Spotify, it's so easy to share playlists and songs.



By listening to music from lots of different artists, music can broaden our awareness of different views of life. Songs can tell stories about heartbreak, world peace, the struggles of life, or just corn and tractors. We each have an opinion on all topics that music brings to the table. Whether we like J. Cole or Nirvana, how we feel about Taylor Swift's new album, or whether we light up listening to Duran Duran or Queen. Music can bring a handful of feelings, like sadness, excitement, nostalgia, etc. We listen to certain songs to bring back times of when we were young or a memory of a day spent with friends. As a result, sharing your song or artist can be fun and intimate. Certain artists express their feelings in ways some people don't understand, while others have a soulful connection with it. Some people may have a few songs we like in common. With others, it could be a whole discography of an artist. Learning a person's music taste is like learning a part of their personality.



Music sets the tone for different occasions. During last year's Fourth of July party, the speakers were blasting 80s hits. It felt fun, and everyone was singing along while conversing. At the birthday party you went to in May, Doja Cat played on repeat, while you were surrounded by smiles and cake. Even just laying on your bed alone with Joy Division ringing through your ears, the feelings of numbness resonate throughout the room.

SPOTIFY CODES ⇒

"UPTOWN GIRL"

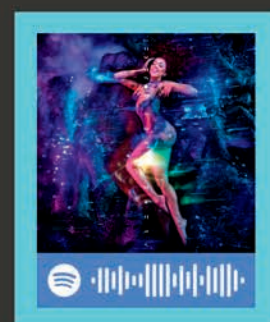
BY BILLY JOEL

"WOMAN"

BY DOJA CAT

"ATMOSPHERE"

BY JOY DIVISION



When we work out, we choose music with fast tempos and uplifting melodies to energize us. Similarly to how music can create a positive environment, if you walk into a room where an artist you don't like is playing, you're not going to feel as comfortable as you would if a song off of your favorite album was on.

Personally, I love long car rides with music blasting out of the speakers. Singing the lyrics off key with my friends is one of the best feelings. It's so intimate and empowering, like it's just us against the world. It helps connect us, even if we don't agree on the music selections.

Through these ways, music brings us together. That small connection you have with someone makes the world slightly less hostile. If the world could stop for a moment and just listen, what would we hear? Maybe a stranger's car stereo, with classical music drifting out the window while sitting in traffic. Perhaps the birds that sing to us when the sun rises above the horizon. The comforting creaking of a house makes everyone sleep. Music comes in all shapes and sizes, much like people. Being open to new experiences can broaden your horizons and expand your internal musical repertoire.

Part of the human experience is about the bonds we make throughout our life, including the ones we make through music.

BLOOM'S SUMMER PICKS





Beauty

There are over seven billion people in our world, and everyone is unique in their own way, whether it be their appearance, physique, thoughts, or talents. Because of this, there is no need for a strict beauty ideal that forces individuals to alter themselves in order to be welcomed. Beauty expectations exist in society, particularly for women, regulating how they must appear and act.

the



is

Beast

by Hazel Joseph





The beauty in a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman is seen in her eyes because that is the doorway to her heart; the place where love resides... ”

- Audrey Hepburn

The idea of beauty is always shifting; beauty has required a slim form for centuries, but now beauty ideals are currently shifting from slim being ideal to thick being ideal. The fashion was to get as slim as possible but girls in the current generation like to be “thick.”

Contemporary beauty standards suggest that girls are supposed to wear cosmetics in their everyday routines, work out in the gym, remain slim with curves in the correct spots, and be youthful. These standards may affect how people perceive their bodies, as everyone has a desire to obtain societal approval and avoid rejection from others.

By making contrasts, women are continually measuring themselves by the expectations of appearance that the community has shown them. Due to this foolish concept of appearance, many teenage girls feel anxious and suffer from low self-esteem, improper diet, and body dysmorphia. Present beauty standards are critically unrealistic, particularly in aspects of body shape. People contend with physical appearance; many feel their figure is far too tall, curvy, or slim.



This concern begins at an early age and can affect the person all their life. Bradley University conducted a study showing that more than half of teenage girls miss meals, vomit, and consume laxatives to regulate their weight. Such patterns become routines and can adapt to these emotional environments.

The community is highly shaped by what we are seeing in the mainstream because social media depicts these societal expectations. It increasingly creates standards of attractiveness and affects people's awareness and anxiety because of their dissatisfaction with their bodies. In tendency to anxiety because of their dissatisfaction with their body's appearance. In today's world, excessive beauty standards are a problem.

Why is the American body ideal for women so thin today? Why is a broad and muscular body suitable for men? Does this tell us anything about the roles we expect men and women to fulfill? Can you think of some "plus-size" celebrities? How are they viewed? It wasn't till the 1980s that the term "plus-size" was issued a clear description of being fourteen and over in size. Around the same point, the critique of big fashion magazines has started. Society had begun to note the absence of participation of full-figured women in their popular modeling publications.

As the plus-size industry has grown and adapted to where it is now, we should switch to many other inspirational and influential people who are preaching the concept of body positivity. However, social media and other outlets further aim to reduce the evolution of healthy appearance and develop new and daunting expectations of what females need to represent: behavioral and presentation-wise.

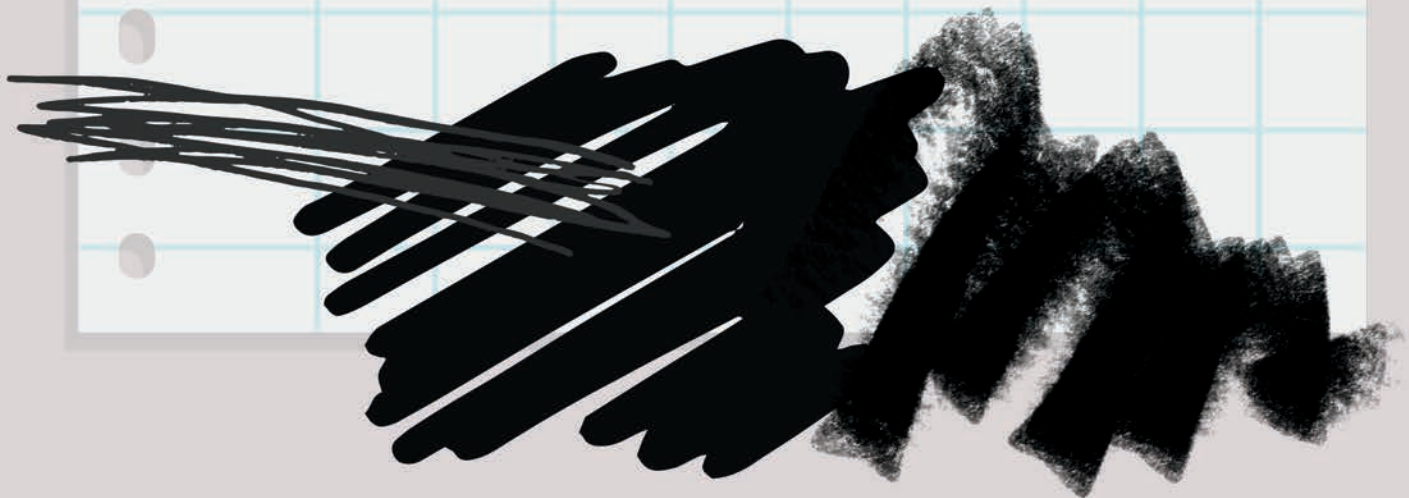
Such perception, combined with photoshopped pictures encourages slim standards, can cause us to believe that we can feel more dignified and comfortable about ourselves by having the 'suitable' body picture. Social values like such are portrayed in society as moral beliefs and principles that are accepted by the majority to ensure continuity. This perpetuates an image of perfection that is correlated with physical attractiveness and social status. These perceptions of beauty will persist until some measures are taken. We need to actively spread positivity and self-confidence.

The best possibility of this improvement is if society starts to broaden its imagination to all kinds of beauty. Everyone should be accepted socially. It is important to move beyond our present unrealistic beauty expectations. Doing this would give everyone the freedom they desire to be themselves. The outlook is promising, but in hopes to see the changes required we need to reach out and embrace everyone.

Existing

by E.C.

I am an object. My body is being passed around like I am merely a toy. Boys pleading for nudes, telling me that they will kill themselves if they don't see a photo of my 14-year-old naked body. They make me lie about my age to their friends. Telling me that it is okay because I am just so mature. And when they don't get their way, hell breaks loose. They assault me with their words, putting me down, telling me that I am a whore, a worthless piece of crap. I cry over them, cry over their words, their assaults. Why? Why do I keep doing this to myself? I put myself in this position. I keep opening up the app that destroys me. Disgustingly, I want it to keep happening to me. I want their attention even if it is bad. They like me. They put their time and effort into me. Even if all they want is my body. I will do anything to make them like me. So I will send them my naked body. I will pose like the model in the magazines, puckering up my lips to look better. They block me afterward, getting what they want. I don't care though, I know there will always be another guy. Another one is ready to tell me how pretty and mature I am. Ready to damage the already damaged.



Keep 'in It Local

by Sai Prakash

One of the things that makes Bainbridge feel even more tightly knit is the strong sense of community cultivated by its residents. Islanders love their home, and they always volunteer their time to make their neighborhood the best it can be through various organizations - each supporting different causes such as arts or sustainability. With Islanders being so involved, it was only natural for a group of them to found the Bainbridge Community Foundation.

The Bainbridge Community Foundation, or BCF, is a community serving organization. They work to enrich those around them and offer assistance financially. They act as a platform for individuals and businesses who wish to donate and connect them with non-profits in every sector. BCF aims to nurture non-profits, which are vital for thriving communities. Since inception, BCF has distributed 20.7 million dollars as of July 2022. They meet their goals through building connections with others, helping philanthropists open donor advised funds, collecting and analyzing

data, educating donors, offering grants, and educating on financial literacy.

One endeavor BCF embarks on is creating the State of the Sector report annually. They create a survey for nonprofits to gauge their needs and learn about the community. This report includes statistics on wealth, gender, education, and much more. They discuss how BCF funding has been put into action and can be used as an educational resource for those looking to help. The report also goes into thorough detail on our island's susceptibilities. This report offers insight into the diversity and distributions in our community.



Together, we are Bainbridge.



The work of BCF is extremely important since nonprofits support affordability. Nonprofit organizations play a crucial role in creating strong communities by providing vital services that add to economic stability and mobility. They strengthen communities because they understand what those around them need through the strong relationships they create with the people they serve and their local knowledge. In a time when prices keep going up and the government does less and less to help, having nonprofits is so helpful. BCF is an amazing resource for nonprofits in all sectors - when resources are strained, nonprofits know they can always turn to BCF for help. BCF aims to expand their support of investments, volunteering, and networking efforts.

Through the research BCF conducts, they found that Bainbridge identifies mental health and health human housing as the two most important sectors that need help; BCF has focused on those two sectors. Nearly half of the past year's Grant Cycle was distributed among Health, Housing, and Human Services, and BCF has given nearly \$4 million to this sector since the program's

inception in 2005. Just this year during their grant cycle, BCF awarded over \$550,000 to nonprofits needing support funding their ideas. BCF also works to highlight the importance of diversity in our neighborhood. They specifically awarded five organizations on the island IDEAS awards - an award for work in inclusion, diversity, equality, accessibility, and social justice. These organizations were Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network (BARN), Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC), Peacock, Vitalize Kitsap, and WEAVE Presents. These programs all work to raise awareness of social and cultural diversity through the arts.



BCF also focuses greatly on supporting the youth. They work closely with Bainbridge Youth Services and Bainbridge Schools Foundation. These two organizations, with the support of BCF, have been able to strengthen their programs and help many more kids. Just recently, BYS was awarded a grant of \$24,000 to help grow their mental health efforts and offer even more counseling to those who need it.

Nonprofits only succeed with the help of others. They need dedicated and passionate people to share their time and volunteer for their board of directors or for their organization. When you realize people in your community desperately need the services of a nonprofit and you can further its mission, it couldn't be easier to make a phone call and ask how you can get involved. As you meet more volunteers, you'll be inspired to do more and volunteer in more ways.

Local nonprofits help make our communities thrive. Without them, our neighbors who have fallen on hard times might struggle to make ends meet. By offering your time and expertise, you can make a real difference.

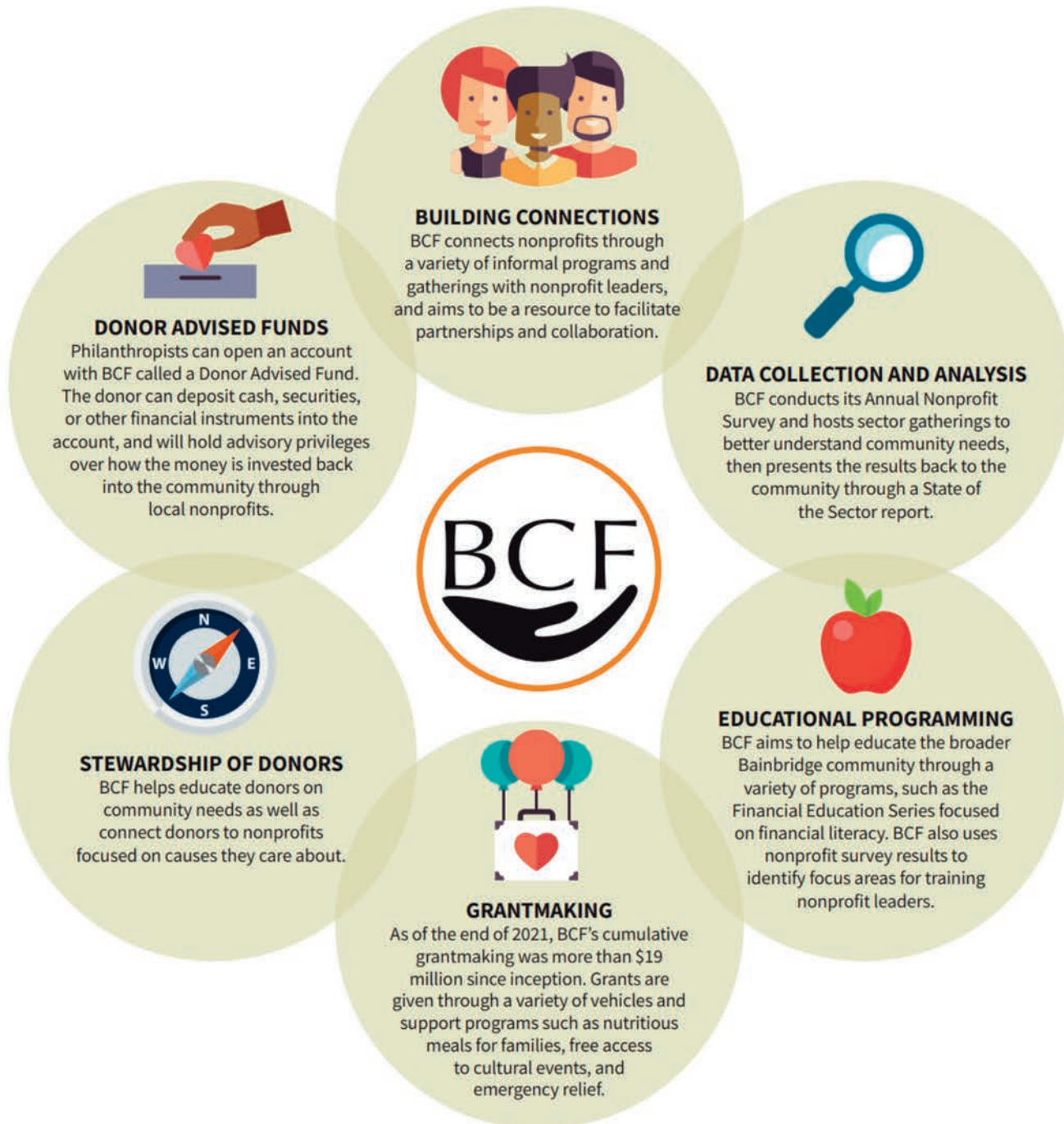


Contact Bainbridge Community Foundation to learn more !
infoebainbridgecf.org
(206) 842-0433



How BCF is Responding to Community Needs

BCF and its local nonprofit partners aim to help build and maintain a welcoming community for all. The breadth and depth of nonprofit work covers a wide range of needs and opportunities, and BCF supports them through grantmaking, data collection and analysis, educational programming, stewardship of donors, and building connections for stronger partnerships.



Want to get involved? You have options!

- Volunteer your time or donate to one of the local nonprofits
- If you are interested in volunteering with BCF, contact media@bainbridgecf.org
- If you are interested in donating to BCF, contact brigitte@bainbridgecf.org
- To receive BCF newsletters straight to your email, text BCFNEWS to 22828

Women in the World

Here at Bloom, we believe in the importance of being heard. That's why we wanted to highlight the strong women who voiced their opinion in this year's July 4th Parade on Bainbridge Island by using their photo on the cover. It was truly inspiring seeing them march and proudly hold up their signs. The initiative, started by Cordelia Janow, was a huge success.



Cordelia is a recent graduate of Bainbridge High School and has grown up on Bainbridge Island. Next year she will be attending the University of Southern California to study Theatre which she has been doing since she was young. She is also planning to study American Popular Culture, and is specifically interested in how music influences and reflects certain time periods. She is passionate about fighting for equality and human rights and is hoping to do more work like this in the future.

Cordelia's statement on why she organized the march at the July 4th Parade:

"When Roe was overturned, I was devastated but I was also very aware of what a privilege it is to live somewhere that is committed to protecting abortion access. Many people on Bainbridge don't actually have to come into contact with hard topics like this because abortion bans harm marginalized and low-income people the most. It's a bit frustrating to me that people here can say they support abortion access but then turn around and celebrate America days later. I wanted to organize something that advocated for reproductive rights in a way that hopefully made people think a bit about why they are able to overlook these issues so easily."



Women's Rights

The ongoing fight for Women's Rights has been led by many remarkable women throughout history. Trailblazers like Susan B Anthony and Malala Yousafzai have carved a path for women around the world to move forward. Progress continues to be made, and as Hilary Clinton once said, "When there are no ceilings, the sky's the limit."

Bloom presents a timeline of some of the most significant events U.S. women's history

March 31, 1776:

Abigail Adams writes a letter to Founding Father John Adams and the Continental Congress to "remember the ladies." She asks for a more equal split of power and says women do not need to obey any laws in which they have no presentation.



July 19-20, 1848:

The first woman's rights convention (organized by women) was held in New York. Called the Seneca Falls Convention, they had over 300 attendees including notable figures such as Frederic Douglass. This event was the starting point for years of activism to come, eventually leading to the passing of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.



May 15, 1869:

Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Candy Stanton create the National Woman Suffrage Associate

October 16, 1916:

Margaret Sanger opens the first birth control clinic, deemed illegal by "Comstock Laws" which forbade birth control. Her clinic was raided just 10 days after opening and was shut down two more times because of legal threats. She had to permanently close her clinic but then founded the American Birth Control League in 1921. This was the 'original' Planned Parenthood.

August 18, 1920:

The 19th Amendment is passed guaranteeing the right to vote no matter the sex of the person

December 1, 1955:

Rosa Parks refuses to give her seat on the bus to a white man. This marks the launch of the Civil Rights Movement

May 9, 1960:

FDA approves the first commercially produced birth control pill. This gave women control over when and if they have children

Jan. 22, 1973:

Roe V Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court states that the Constitution protects a woman's right to an abortion. In June of 2022, the Supreme Court overturned the ruling

July 7, 1981:

Sandra Day O'Connor is sworn in by Reagan as the first woman to serve for the U.S. Supreme Court. She retired in 2006

Sept. 13, 1994

The Violence Against Women Act is signed by Clinton, providing funding for programs that support victims of gender-related violence

Jan. 24, 2013:

Women are now allowed to serve in combat positions in the U.S. military

July 26, 2016:

Hilary Clinton is the first woman to be nominated for the presidential race by the Democratic Party

Jan. 20, 2021:

Kamala Harris becomes the first woman and person of color to hold the title of Vice President of the United States

June 24, 2022:

Supreme Court overturns Roe V Wade

How do Women fit into India's Society?

By Manju Chivukula

Culturally, India has been a country where 98% of its people believe in God. With deep insight into the Indian mythological stories, one can begin to understand the basic ethos of the culture. The Goddesses in India are the all-powerful women who had a major role in destroying evil and bringing hope, justice, and good into the world. We pray to these Goddesses for strength, victory, power, and wealth especially when we experience momentous events in life.

Starting with the Vedas, a collection of Sanskrit hymns that prescribe the way of life, we have an example of *Maitreyi*. She has many hymns accredited to her in the Rig Veda. She found her solace in knowledge and spirituality - she had argued with many revered saints and scholars and set a record for herself, and thus a good part of Rigveda is credited to her.

In similar lines, we hear stories of *Arundathi*, known for her chastity and unblemished character who is accorded a place among the seven sages. She shines as a morning star and is still revered, and included as a ritual in today's Indian weddings.

The celebration of festivals such as *Navaratri*, signifies Goddess Durga, an embodiment of power and victory, which in itself is a celebration of womanhood and woman power.



The story narrates that she draws power from the entire world and its natural elements. The Gods approach her for help to destroy a menacing evil in the name of the demon *Mahisha*, and at the end of the 9-day war, she defeats him and attains success.

Shankaracharya, the exponent Guru of Hinduism who re-established the Hindu culture across the country when it was dwindling towards Buddhism, was unable to defeat *Sharada Devi* in his debates and discourses and prays to her as the mother of Knowledge, and she is the presiding deity of *Shankara Matt* which was established by *Shankaracharya* across the country from Kerala to Kashmir.

Other festivals speak a lot about the

cultural heritage of India where women play a major part. The role of *Sita* in the *Ramayana*, especially in raising her twin children in a forest after being disowned by Lord *Rama*, *Draupadi* in the *Mahabharata*, for whom the great war of *Kurukshetra* was fought, is part of Hindu mythology and are shining examples of women power.

Indian queens such as *Jhansi Rani Lakshmi Bai*, *Kitturu Chennamma*, *Rani Durgama Devi* to mention a few, fought wars and attained victory, and ran their kingdom after the demise of their kings. Some of them are known for their exceptional intelligence and strategies. Some queens have picked up the wars from where their kings had left and fought victoriously. The princesses or queens of those days used to call the Kings for *Swayamvara*, which is a process of choosing their ideal spouse. The suitors would have to pass the criterion set by the queen or queen's father. The test would normally be a debate or an act of displaying a certain kind of valor. They had the choice of dictating terms to the kings who would wait patiently for the Princess's approval.

Many of the kingdoms particularly in the Southern part of India had matriarchal descent. The *Cheras* of Kerala, *Pandyas* of Tamil Nadu had explicit matriarchal kingdoms which expanded even to Singapore. Kerala, the Southernmost state in the country, still enjoys a matriarchal society.

India in its present-day, still enjoys Women's power with them being in key positions in present-day politics, bureaucracy, and as heads of state.

India had a woman Prime Minister *Indira Gandhi* who ruled the country for over two decades, a woman President *Pratibha Patil* who is the ceremonial head of state and Commander-In-Chief of the Indian armed forces. In comparison with the superpowers of the world like the USA, Russia and China, where there has not been any woman as the head of state, India has done exceptionally well even when there was illiteracy and backwardness as compared to today's India.



Euphoria

A slice of orange
The twinkle in luminous chocolate rounds
Petals of rose blending into a sun-kissed palette
Call it a face full of Euphoria.

Euphoria turns to joy, extends to contentment, then to forever
smiles
Who knew a sliver of citrus is so contagious?

The brightness of the everchanging slate taken for granted
The expression of the dynamic slate lifting a whole room

Bringing hues of yellow and pink to an expanse dark as wood
Covering this blue and green marble with a friendly glaze

Just a single orange slice

- Sai Prakash



It's Almost Five and the Sun Still Isn't Up

*It's almost
five,
and the sun
still isn't
up.
All the lights
are off,
everyone who isn't
here is still
asleep.
We stay up
in our
bed.
The shadows
whisper.
We can't hear
what they're
saying,
but they're
saying something
to us.*

*We can feel
them watching.
Waiting.
Waiting for
a response
they know we'll never
give.
Still, they
wait.
Satisfied.
Satisfied with the
fear they fill
our soul
with.
We can't do
anything.*

*That's the best
part.
All we
can do is wait.
Wait to overflow.
Wait to explode.
To burst.
The shadows,
they wait, too.*

- Zest Ryerson

It's Simple, Really

It's simple, really
Make some coffee, maybe tea.
Do the simple things
It doesn't take much to be
happy. Simple, so it seems.

Falling Down

The leaves are falling
falling, falling. Down. Pretty,
once. Not so much now.
Only a crunch, a crackle,
underfoot. Nothing but dust.

Water Flows

Water flows, and flows
Over rocks and through rivers
In currents, down cheeks
Smoothing stones and healing
hearts
Water flows. It's how it knows.

- Sophie Hegarty

About ~

These poems are written in a classical Japanese form called *Tanka*. They consist of five lines and thirty-one syllables. The first line is 5 syllables, the second 7, the third 5, and the final two lines 7 syllables. It is the predecessor of the Haiku poem, which is taken from the first 3 lines but omits the final 2 seven-syllable lines. They often include the themes of nature, love, beauty, simplicity, or the passing of time. These themes are known as *Kigo*. *Tanka* originated during the Heian period in Japan, which lasted from about 794 to 1185 CE. During this period, literature, poetry, philosophy, and art thrived.

These poems discuss themes of *kigo* such as nature and simplicity. As they did in the Heian period, they express the pleasant moments in the everyday human experience: sentiments echoed in poetry and literature for centuries. However, these moments in our day-to-day lives are generally unremarkable, noticed for a moment before a more urgent task interrupts.

a new mountain rises from the earth

a new summit distends from the earth
but not one of rock and snow.
it's a symptom of sickness
where all the unwanted goes
a mountain on wheels arrives, a train leaves empty.
the mountains have grown

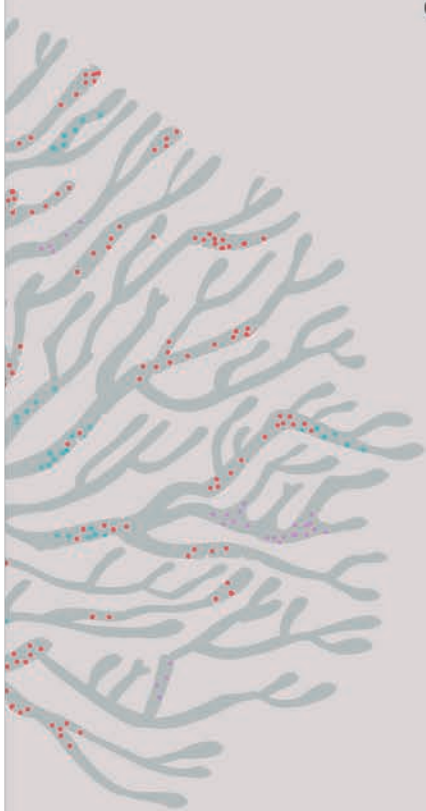
a new island swells from the sea
but not one of coral and sand.
another mark man has made upon the land

we think we have no sway, we say
"all they do is stand aside"
have we gone blind?
"why do they allow it to be this way"
if only this made the problem go away

all we have done is betray,
watching our beautiful earth waste away
decay

is that all you have to say?

- ***Sophie Hegarty***



This Issue's Six-Word Memoir

“ Legend has it that Ernest Hemingway was once challenged to write a story in only six words. ” (Six-Word Memoirs Project)

Launched in November 2006, Larry Smith of *SMITH Magazine* asked the world: Can you tell your life story in six words? Now with over 1.3 million published life stories on the Six-Word Memoir website, here's our take:

Slippery slope of mistakes and genius.

- S.S.

An alliterative six-word memoir that shows the highs and lows of life. I think it can be easier to look at life and point out our mistakes, but it's important to recognize that mistakes are just a part of life. Life can be compared to a precarious icy road after a snowstorm where you may:

1. be overconfident and slip and fall on your face
2. gain some momentum and slide with style
3. or cautiously tiptoe across

Within this comparison, there is room for creating new solutions and even with the possibility for error, at least we can know not to repeat what we did and try again.

The idea of life being a slope also reminds us that in order to understand the meaning of being our best selves, at our highest, we will need low times to compare it to. In light of all our weaknesses, we also sometimes come up with great ideas, innovations, or new ways to grow and I think that all can be described as a sort of genius.

I hope to demonstrate the spontaneity of life and our destiny of being capable of achieving so much while also living a life full of mistakes. I knew I wanted to portray life as some sort of journey but also struggled in determining what form of journey would suit it most.

I like how the slippery road/ski slope turned out; picture someone slipping on ice, stuck in motion, and running in place for what seems like forever until they finally lose the battle and faceplant. A friend watches them go down and laughs at the sound of their body slapping the ice but then proceeds to extend a helping hand.

"Everyone has a story. What's yours?"

If you have a moment this summer, maybe give this challenge a try? Even six words can say a lot. In the process you may learn more about yourself and have something to share with others – something personal and unique!

Feeling Inspired?

Say It In Six™ at sixwordsmemoirs.com to submit your own memoir and learn more!

Being Queer




Juggling Sexual Orientation and Acceptance in Relationships from a Highschool Perspective

Being queer. It's a lot. I am a bisexual girl who attends BHS. I've decided not to attach my name to this piece because I'm not ready to let the whole world know. I'm not afraid for my peers or teachers to know. It's my family. When you come from a place that won't accept you – where you have sleepless nights wondering what might happen if something slips out, where you have to listen to nightly dinner table rants about how the Gays are pushing their agenda onto God's country – it gets scary.

My heart skips a beat every time the stairs make a creak just slightly off from normal, the floorboards screaming to get under the safety of covers. I'm not saying my life is a drama movie. I live in a suburban home where everything is provided for me. I have two loving parents and a brother who adores me; I get constant reminders of that. I just know that their unconditional love may be conditional if I tell them who I am.

What would happen if I came home one day with a girl on my shoulder? I know it wouldn't be hugs and kisses. I know there wouldn't be a gift basket or a cake to celebrate.

There was never a specific day when I realized being gay was not acceptable in my family. It was just hardwired into my brain. We go to church every Sunday. We pray before meals. We give 10% to our church. We are a model Christian family. I hear in the car, at the dining table, and in my room about how gay people are the bane of my father's existence. Constant reminders berate my daily: "gay people disgust me", "it's a choice", or "the left wing agenda is smothering me with the gay Nazi agenda."



In the living room, my family crowds around the TV. The screen changes color as the scenes play out. Two girls holding hands appear, and the taller one bends down and kisses the other girl on the forehead. My father groans from across the room. His eyes roll into the back of his head as he grabs for the remote, “gross, I don’t get why everything has to be about gay people. Not everyone is gay like in Hollywood.” My mom nods like a bobblehead, never off beat. I pretend to not care and stare at my phone instead, looking for a distraction. I hear chatter in the background. I can’t tell exactly what’s being said or done, but I know no one is excited about the one, rare piece of representation I got today—the one piece that helps me know I’m not alone. That one piece gives me a glimmer of hope that one day, maybe I will be happy and accepted with a person of the same gender.

Since I identify as bisexual, I am represented in heterosexual-presenting relationships, but that does

not diminish the fact I am still queer. Being queer is just one part of me. I am also a writer, a sister, and a friend, not just gay. My entire personality cannot be reduced to just being gay, even though the media likes to portray queer people that way. Furthermore, LGBTQIA+ community faces oppression and violence every day. Transgender women were 72% of homicide victims in 2013; 27.78% were gay men. Even if I were to make being gay my whole personality, I still deserve to be accepted and celebrated. We deserve it because it hasn’t even been 10 years since gay marriage was legalized. We deserve it because we are far more likely to die just because of whom we love. We deserve it because there are 70 countries where we are not allowed to exist.

I’m asking that the next time you decide to insult someone based on their sexuality or gender identity, you stop and bite your tongue because the world could use a little less hate today.

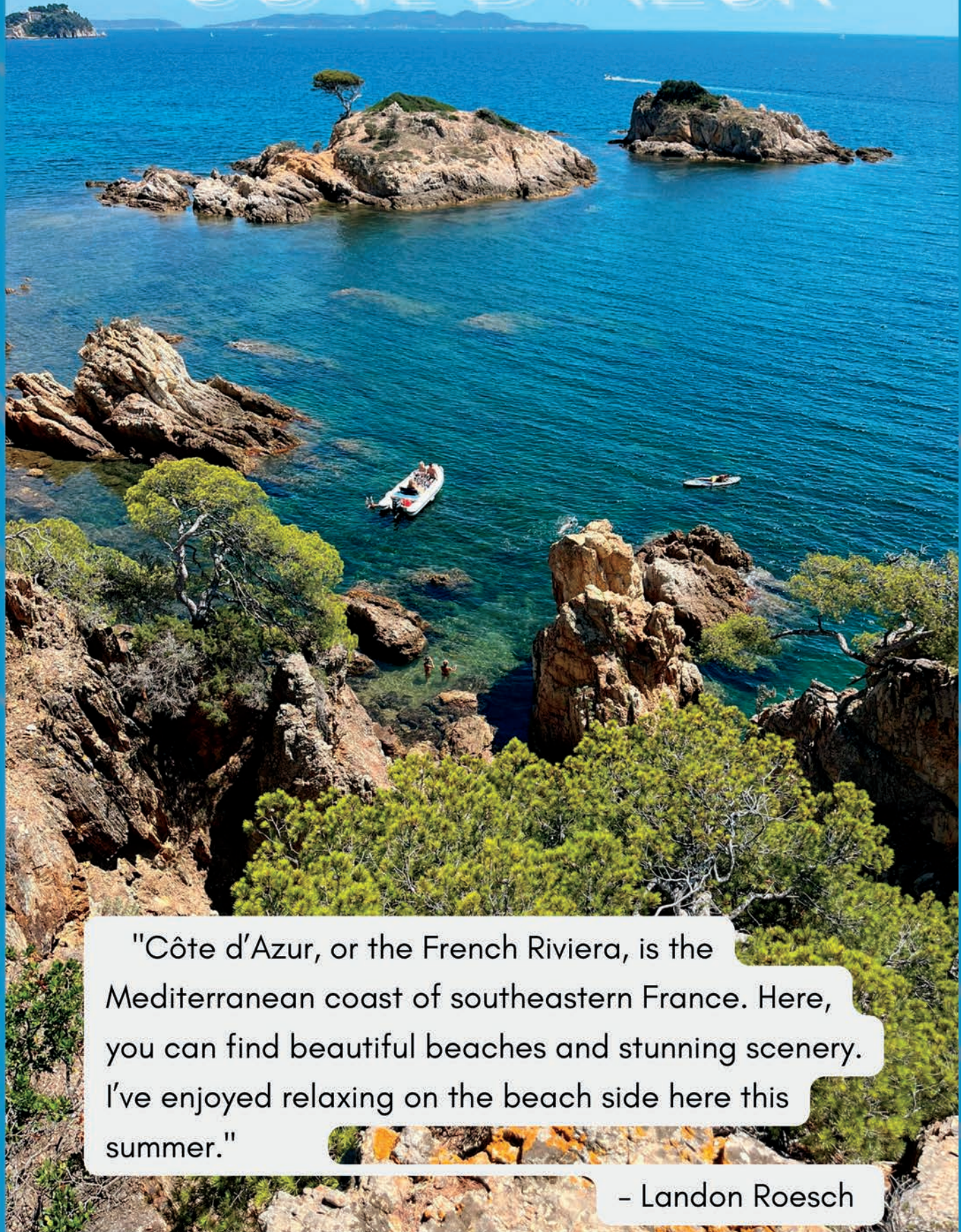
A stylized globe with white outlines of continents, centered in the upper half of the page. The background is a vibrant teal with white stars and pink clouds. The title 'Sights Around the World' is written in a bold, pink, sans-serif font, with 'Sights' on the first line, 'Around' on the second, 'the' on the third, and 'World' on the fourth. A decorative white swirl is on the left side of the first line.

Sights Around the World

Traveling is a great way to explore new cultures, meet new people, and try intricate foods. It helps open your eyes and form new relationships. In this issue, we've highlighted some of our fans' favorite places to go!

- Côte d'Azur
- Sicily
- Panama
- Kristiansand

CÔTE D'AZUR



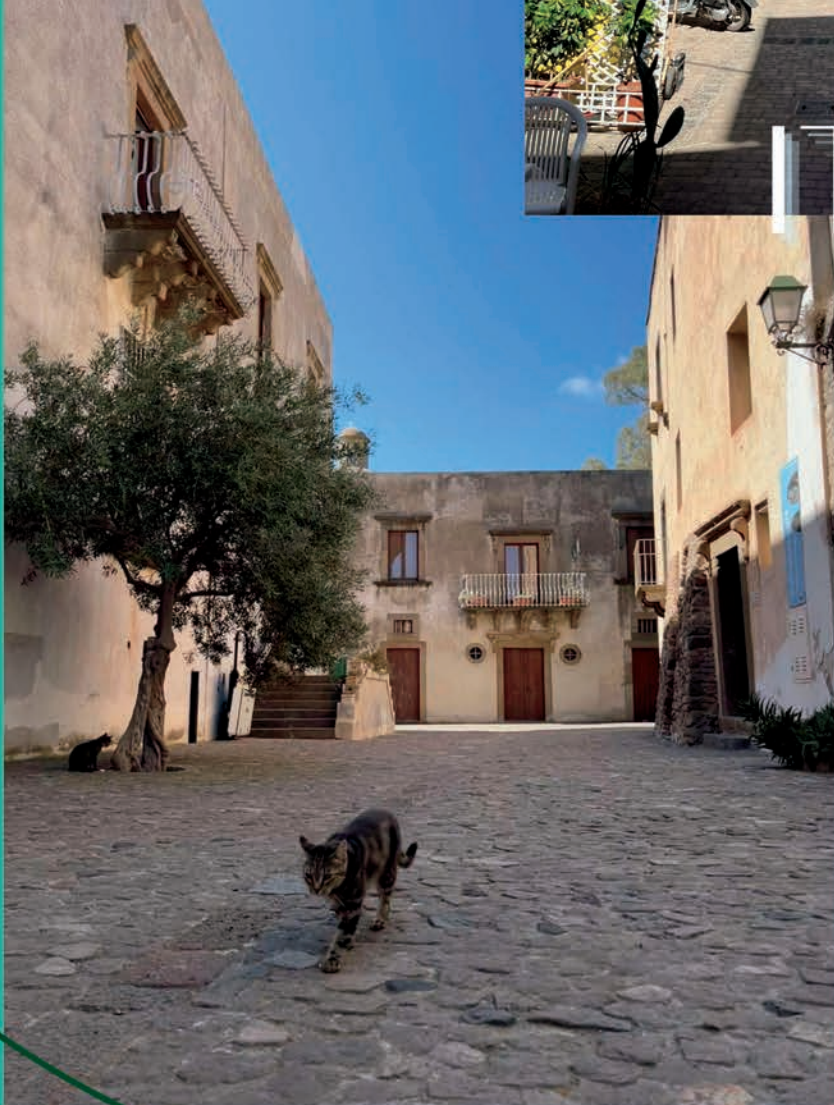
"Côte d'Azur, or the French Riviera, is the Mediterranean coast of southeastern France. Here, you can find beautiful beaches and stunning scenery. I've enjoyed relaxing on the beach side here this summer."

- Landon Roesch



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ITALY



Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean. It's a magical spot to visit because of its world famous architecture. It's a great spot to visit with family and the food is amazing!

- Landon Roesch

P A N A M A



"This is Panama: the country, of about 30,000 sq miles, touches both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. My grandparents moved down there in 2005 and have been enjoying retirement. The mountains where they live are the perfect climate for growing coffee beans, bananas, lemons, plantains, and much more. The country is also home to the elusive Quetzal which only a handful of people in the world have seen."

- Cassie Montgomery





"I love visiting Norway because that's where I'm from, I have lots of family and I love the community there. Kristiansand has the best sunsets I've ever seen"

- Montana Rist

Culture Corner!

BHARATANATYAM



Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form originating from Southern India, known for its elegance, beauty, and ability to express ideas and stories. This 2000 year-old dance form which is based on the 108 positions of Lord Nataraja's "Dance of Triumph", described in the *Natya Shastra*, an ancient exposition of dance. *Bharatanatyam* is a combination of "bhavam"- expression, "ragam"- music, "talam"- rhythm, and "natyam" - dance. In early India, *Bharatanatyam* was used as a form of entertainment in which women, known as *Devadasi*, or temple dancers, would dance for the royals of the kingdom.

Bharatanatyam uses a combination of body parts including the eyes, hands, feet and waist to accentuate various human emotions. Modern *Bharatanatyam* contains over 30 individual hand gestures with each gesture representing a different meaning. In this dance, the variety of patterns that arise from combination of eye and hand gestures allows for dancers to not only tell but show a story. These stories can be tales, parts of mythology, or even sections of Vedic literature.

For example, the hand gesture "pataaka" is done with the hand held straight up like a stop sign. *Pataaka* is used to express denial and blessings. The moves and expressions are complemented by the vibrant outfits and give a uniqueness to the dance form. It is difficult to imagine *Bharatanatyam* without the pleated, colorful drape usually made with silk and gold thread. This dance calls for special jewelry called Kundan jewelry. It usually has intricate designs made with precious stones like diamonds, emeralds, sapphires and rubies.

In India today, *Bharatanatyam* has become the key activity for cultural revival in the post-independence era. *Bharatanatyam* is learnt by many girls around the world and other than being an art form marked by beauty, *Bharatanatyam* training makes for a workout of the mind, body, and soul.

The philosophy behind this dance is to search the soul and unite with the supreme being.

- Sai Prakash

Decreasing Your Carbon Footprint



A carbon footprint is a term coined to express the amount of greenhouse gases an individual or group emits into the atmosphere. It estimates the total emissions of those gases in the atmosphere which contribute to climate change. The size of your carbon footprint is dependent on many factors, mainly the number of emissions released by any given activity. Everything, including people and industries, has carbon footprints. These footprints consist of commutes, consumed food, clothing, trash, pets, and more. The larger your footprint becomes, the worse it is on the environment. As the population of the world continues to grow, it is crucial to the global community that we begin to consider our footprints and how our actions affect the world around us.

The decreasing of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide will require everyone to significantly reduce their carbon footprint. CO₂, or carbon dioxide, traps heat in the atmosphere. As fossil fuels continue to be burned and forests are cut down, greenhouse gases increase the average temperature of the planet. The rapid change in temperature has various life-threatening impacts including rising sea levels, intense storms, food scarcity, economic inequality, ocean acidification, and species extinction.

- Sai Prakash



"Around the world, the average person generates 4.8 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. In the United States, it's more than three times that number – 16.2 metric tons. In fact, the U.S.'s per capita carbon footprint is larger than that of most nations, including Canada (15.64 t), Russia (11.76 t), Germany (9.73 t), Japan (9.45 t), China (6.98 t), UK (5.81 t), France (5.48 t), Brazil (2.27 t) and India (1.84 t)."

- Conservation.org "What is a carbon footprint"

The five major contributors of emissions are:

- Family Size, Transportation, AC/Heating, Food, Laundry

What are some ways to reduce your footprint?

- **Drive Less:** Try to opt for a bike or walk those shorter distances
- **Eat Less Meat:** The production of meat (especially red) uses a lot of water, land, and feed. Eating a vegan diet is likely the best for the environment. Beef gives off more than 6 pounds of carbon dioxide per serving!
- **Waste Less:** Americans waste around 40% of the food they buy. Skip single-use materials and replace them with sustainable substitutes.
- **Appliances:** Turn off lights when you don't need them, replace your lights with LED lights, turn down the heat, and choose to use renewable energy.

Curious About How You've Been Doing?

Check out www3.epa.gov to learn how to calculate your own carbon footprint !

The Green Team at Rotary Auction



The Rotary Auction and Rummage Sale was back again this June after a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19. This famous Bainbridge Island tradition is dedicated to an important tenet of sustainability: reusing. This is accomplished through the over 150,000 items that are donated and put up for auction every year. However, there are still many items that remain unsold at the end of the auction or are deemed unsellable at collection. These items that would otherwise be condemned to the landfill are rescued, recycled, and redistributed to nonprofits throughout the community by a team of hard-working men and women dedicated to environmental stewardship known as the 'Green Team'. This group works under the radar but is nonetheless vital to the Rotary's mission of sustainability by reducing, reusing, and recycling at every opportunity.

This year, as every year, their work was invaluable.

For the first time, the auction did not provide single-use plastic water bottles, this change was a result of advocacy by the Green Team. In addition, reusable metal utensils were provided by the Green Team to be used at the many meals served in the week preceding the auction. As a result, the hundreds of single-use plastic water bottles and utensils that would have been generated each day were replaced by reusable alternatives. These efforts helped the auction reduce its waste. In addition, the Green Team is responsible for the Lawn of Opportunity, colloquially known by auction volunteers as the LOO. This is the destination for all the items that are deemed unsellable by the other departments. Where others see trash, the Green Team sees opportunity, hence the name. From here, these unwanted items take many different paths.



Some are picked up for free by the auction's many volunteers and become someone else's treasure. This year, 80,000 pounds of these cast-offs were donated to The Arc, a non-profit that could find a use for them. If not for the Green Team working in the LOO, these 40 tons would have been destined for the landfill. Also from the LOO, broken gadgets and machines are passed on to a technology recycler. These efforts allow many items to be reused or recycled.

Although this work often happens behind the scenes and is rarely glamorous, the volunteers on the Green Team make a monumental impact on reducing the auction's waste, and their work is invaluable. Thanks to all those who showed up for this cause. If you wish to join the effort to achieve sustainability, you can join the Green Team next year!

- Sophie Hegarty

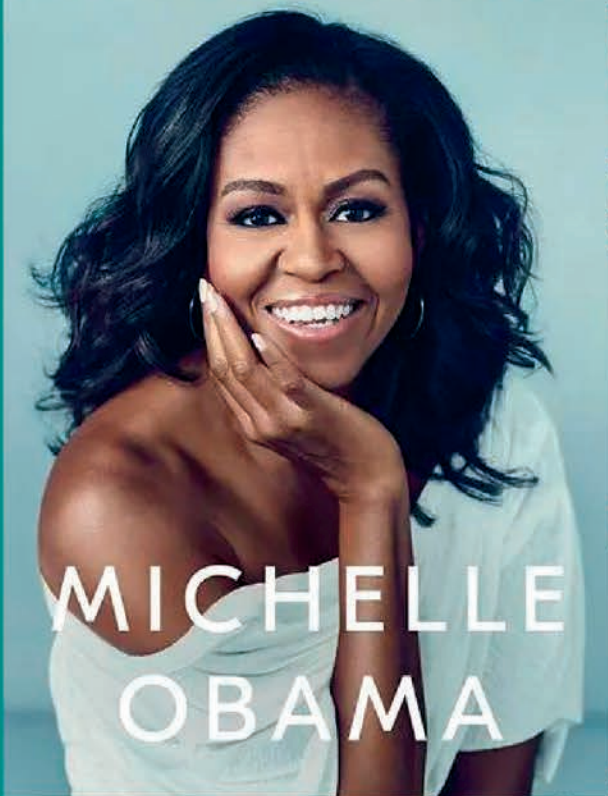


INSPIRING BOOKS

BLOOM'S PICKS



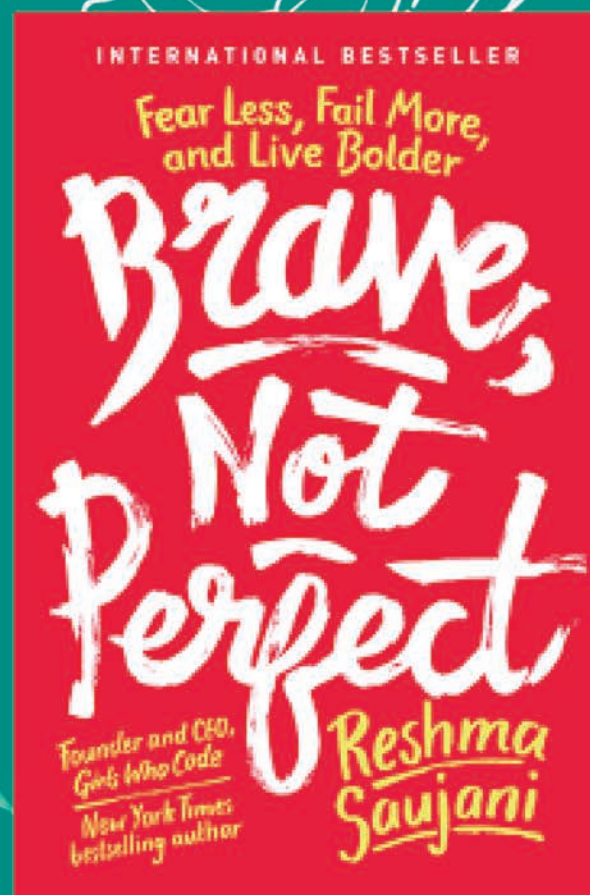
BECOMING



MICHELLE
OBAMA

Former First Lady Michelle Obama uses this book as a platform in which she tells the story of finding her voice in a discriminatory society

Founder and CEO of national non-profit Girls Who Code, Reshma Saujani writes about empowering women and how society does not define a person





- **acknowledgements** -



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