

## Jean Kilbourne Helps Womencare Shelter Celebrate 30 Years

by Jennifer Karchmer

Womencare Shelter is celebrating 30 years in Whatcom County with an anniversary luncheon featuring speaker Jean Kilbourne on Thurs., May 28 from 1-3:30pm at St. Luke's Health Education



Center. Best known for her award-winning documentaries that look critically at tobacco and alcohol advertising, Kilbourne will present her lecture, "The Naked Truth; Advertising's Image of Women."

"I want to congratulate Womencare on doing this work for so long," said Kilbourne, who is currently lecturing around the country. She recently published *So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do to Protect Their Kids* with co-author Diane E. Levin.

The event will include a retrospective of Womencare's impact in Whatcom County since 1979, the same year Kilbourne's "Killing Us Softly" documentary, examining images of women in advertising, was produced.

"I was the first person to talk about advertising and media and women," Kilbourne said in an interview. "My ideas were radical then but are more mainstream now. Nonetheless people still do gasp and are surprised."

In the spring of 1979, two women members of Women Against Violence Against Women (WAAVW) shared stories with two advocates from YWCA's Battered Women's Project (BWP) and agreed on the need for a safe shelter in Bellingham. Today, Womencare continues to provide Whatcom County's 24-hour Domestic Violence Helpline and emergency confidential shelter among other critical services.

"Dr. Kilbourne's work on the portrayal of women in the media has been significant for our society. We are honored to have her come to Bellingham from Boston to talk at our event on this very important topic," Womencare Executive Director Kirsten Hammer said.

Tickets are \$50 for the buffet lunch and presentation. Contact Womencare at 671-8539, or email [kirsten@womencareshelter.org](mailto:kirsten@womencareshelter.org).



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