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LOCAL FRIENDS CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAYS AND LOVE OF LEARNING ON AN ADVENTURE SHOWCASING THE BEAUTY OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

BOSTON (April 24, 2013) – Oak Harbor resident Edna Blackwood is looking forward to celebrating a special birthday this year with her good friends and neighbors, Margaret and Gene Loper.

With their birthdays a day apart – Edna’s is April 27 and Margaret’s is April 28 – and their shared love of learning adventures, Edna suggested celebrating on a Road Scholar program this year. “We’ve gone on Road Scholar programs together before — this one, *Songbirds, Butterflies and Wildflowers, Northwest History and Life in the Methow Valley*, will take place in the quiet and beautiful countryside in Sun Mountain,” she says. “It will be informative and we’ll come away learning something new about someplace so close to us.” Spend a few moments talking with Edna and you will be surprised to learn that she is turning 95 — and Margaret is turning 82.

Edna has been all over the world, traveling with her late husband Robert while he was in the U.S. Navy and on Road Scholar programs. She spent years teaching art and square dancing, and raising a family of three children. Edna introduced her adult children to Road Scholar learning adventures and they recently spent time together on a program in Victoria, British Columbia for New Year’s. “It was special because it was the first time in 17 years we were all able to get together,” Edna says.

Margaret Loper remembers that Edna introduced her and Gene to the educational adventures. “We have friends who travel with other groups and they are just tourists,” she says. “We are doing good things for our minds, too.”

Last year Edna, Margaret and Gene went on a program exploring Alaska’s coastal wilderness. “There was just so much enjoyment on the Alaska program,” Margaret says. “We learned about the landscape and history, and had the opportunity to be with others who were interested in learning. Gene and I are looking forward to this special program with Edna, close to home.”

For more information on the Sun Mountain program, visit: www.roadscholar.org/16158.

About Road Scholar

Not-for-profit Road Scholar’s mission is to inspire adults to learn, discover and travel. Our learning adventures engage expert instructors, provide extraordinary access, and stimulate discourse and friendship among people for whom learning is the journey of a lifetime. Since inception, more than 5

million people have enrolled in our 5,500 iconic educational adventures offered annually in 50 states and 150 countries around the world.

Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. To learn more, please visit our website at www.roadscholar.org/press.

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