



VASHON

THE LOOP

Vol. 2 #7

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

April 6, 2005

Hula at the Co-op Preschool Auction!

by Ed Swan



The grand finale of the 2005 Vashon auction season is coming with the **Vashon-Maury Cooperative Preschool's Hawaiian Luau**. The auction takes place at the VFW Hall at 6:00 p.m. on **Saturday, April 30**. This one is worth waiting for. The preschool parents really know how to put together a good time with a chance to buy awesome auction items. In addition to being fun, the auction is the independent preschool's major fundraiser. Teacher salaries,

Continued on page 5

Affordable Homes on Vashon

By Jeri Nickell

Vashon Household, an Island non-profit organization, is about to begin construction of 19 affordable single-family homes in the new Roseballen community. This neighborhood will be located on a 19-acre parcel just two blocks west of the Vashon Post Office. Beautiful craftsman style homes will be partially built with sweat-equity construction by the low-income and moderate-income Islanders who will own them.

Continued on page 5

A Rusty Blight

by Marie Browne

Isn't it ironic that Vashon, a community with its share of tree-hugging, salmon-loving, groundwater-protecting environmentalists, lives with a major environmental blight and aesthetically disturbing eyesore: hundreds of abandoned cars littering our roadsides, leaking oil and antifreeze into the ground.

Take a walk along just about any Vashon road and you will come across junk cars in various stages of decay, from those sitting on the side of the road with fading pink tags to those in more advanced stages of rusty decline, gradually being consumed by the blackberries.



Why are people abandoning cars along the road and what can we do about it?

For starters, junk cars are damned hard—and expensive—to get rid of. If you are the owner and have the title, you can call Fred Miles or Paul Engels and they will tow it off the Island, for

somewhere between \$100 and \$160.

If you have been unlucky enough to have someone leave a car on your property, it becomes your problem, regardless of how the car got there in the first place. For example, if an uninsured

Continued on page 19

Ferry Happenings in a Nutshell

by Marie Browne

Just a few notes to bring you up to speed on WSF happenings.

The Transportation Commission settled on a 6% annual fare increase recommendation, after dropping their wildly unpopular 30-day commuter card expiration plan. According to Vashon-Maury Island Transportation Committee chair Vickie Mercer, eight people from Vashon spoke at the final hearing on March 23, which she said was far more than from any other community. You may be able to catch their testimony on TVW, like I did when channel surfing for *Law and Order*. I caught Ray Aspiri (who looks a little like Elliot Stabler) question the commissioners about their audit failures.

At a Vashon-Maury transportation meeting last week, WSF Spokesman Ray Deardorf announced that WSF is working with Kitsap County transportation planners on plans to route Kitsap traffic directly downtown. Apparently this would not happen until new boats are added to the fleet, sometime after 2008.

Mercer also said that, "we also saw working papers for Fauntleroy Terminal restoration in 2015," indicating that WSF is re-thinking its other wildly unpopular idea of closing Fauntleroy.

One major unknown is whether the legislature will approve WSF's proposed "triangle plan" for passenger service between Southworth, Vashon, and downtown, or whether they will leave that to private providers. Says VMICC Transportation Committee member Marilyn Omey: "No one knows how it is going to turn out."

I'm betting ongoing citizen activism will influence the final decision. To learn more, come hear Ray Deardorf speak immediately before the next Community Council meeting on April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Courthouse Square.

□□□□□



The Hills are Alive!



Drama Dock does everyone's favorite musical. Details on p 22.

Get in The Loop

Drama Dock Seeks Captain and Crew

Arrrggh. Ay, mateys, Drama Dock is looking for some help in putting on their summer production of "Treasure Island." Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story of Jim Hawkins and the evil Long John Silver ("Arrrgghh!") is coming to the stage and we are in need of a Director, Stage Manager, and Producer for the production. The one act play will be performed in July. Auditions will be in early May with rehearsals beginning in late May or early June. Interested, matey, in helping? Contact Drama Dock at 463-9640 and thanks for your interest, matey.

Meet an "Orca Hero"

Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m. at the Vashon Theatre, **Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) associate Mark Sears** will discuss his work with Southern Resident orcas and show his **stunning photos and video** of Puget Sound marine mammals. Mark was recently recognized as an Orca Hero in a new "Puget Sound Orcas" exhibit at the Seattle Aquarium.

Ask questions of a seasoned, local whale expert and learn more about the work that inspired the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) for Puget Sound whale research. Admission is only \$5.00 and proceeds benefit the VHP. Contact Orca Annie at 463-9041 or the Vashon Theatre at 463-3232, www.vashontheater.com, for more information.

VAC Registration

The Vashon Aquatic Club is now accepting registration for its Spring session running from **March 28th through June 10**. Registration forms are available at the Vashon Athletic Club and Ober Park. VAC provides instruction and coaching to youth of all abilities, including beginner and competition swimmers. Workouts are two to three afternoons a week at the Vashon Athletic Club. For more information please contact registrar Sheri Turner at 463-5648.

VIPP Adopt-A-Cat

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will host an Adopt-A-Cat Day **Saturday, April 16** from 11-2p.m. & **Sunday, April 17** from 12:30-3p.m. at Pandora's Box. Please stop by or call VIPP at 206-389-1085.

Village Learning Open House

Saturday, April 16, 11 am -- 3 pm
9412 Gorsuch Road
Call for information: 567-5804
Scheduled activities include:
11:00-12:30 Tamale making (and eating!)
11:00-12:00 Seed planting
11:30 Kids' magic show
12:00 - 1:00 Stories read aloud
12:30 - 2:00 Disassemble and assemble a computer
1:00 - 2:00 Wild edible plant collecting
1:00 - 3:00 Water balloon candle dipping (\$1.00/candle donation suggested)
1:30 Kids' magic show
2:00 - 3:00 Wild edibles - tea bags, salads, vinegar making
Activities available throughout the day include: weaving, knitting, art projects, science investigations, scrap wood building projects, and more.
Visitors will receive one prepaid activity card worth \$4, redeemable at any of our clubs or activities that are open to non-members.
The mission of the Village Learning Community is to provide an inter-generational, community-based education facility wherein children and adults can pursue self-directed learning. Toward this end, we seek to: provide an environment rich in materials and equipment; offer a broad array of scheduled activities, demonstrations, speakers and classes; foster mentoring relationships and arrange apprenticeships; empower children to be self-determining individuals; develop and practice peaceful, non-authoritarian conflict resolution.

VIPP Plant Sale

The Vashon Island Pet Protectors' Plant Sale will be held **April 23** from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Firefighter's Association Building on Bank Road. Here's your opportunity to pick up a few of our Island grown plants or, if you'd like to make a little space in your garden, contribute a few (**drop off on Friday, April 22** from 9 a.m.-3p.m.) Call Judy at 463-1810 for more information.

Family Activity Day at Madrona

April 30th from 1p.m. to 3 p.m.
Art projects, animals, tractor rides, and more for kids; lively discussions for parents. At the School: 1.8 miles south of Burton on Vashon Highway. Going south, turn Right on Wesleyan Way, then Right at 2nd driveway, following the signs. Bring the whole family!

Make Your Pet a Star

Be part of Vashon Island Pet Protectors' 2006 Pet Calendar. Send your pet's photo (limit 2) along with your pet's name, a tag line about your pet & your phone number to: Kathy Chappell P.O. Box 13182 Burton, WA 98013 or e-mail digital photos to kchappy@msn.com. All are welcome -- cats, dogs, pigs, goats... Don't delay, photos must be received by June 15th. For more information, please call Kathy 463-9203.



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Vashon Library April Calendar

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26; 10:40am— 11am

Toddler Story Time

A 20-minute program of stories and songs just right for toddlers. For ages 21 months to 3 years with an adult. No registration required.

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26; 7-8:30pm

Talk Time

Practice speaking English in a relaxed setting. Parents are welcome to bring children— childcare will be provided. All nationalities and skill levels are welcome. New Talk Time volunteer hosts are Susan Keatts, Patricia Koncsek, and Rosemarie Heard. No registration required.

Wednesdays, April 13, 20, 27 (no storytime on April 6); 10:40am-11am

Lapsit Story Time

A 20-minute program of stories, songs, rhymes and bounces for babies and a caregiver. For ages birth to 20 months, with an adult. No registration required.

Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 11:30am

Preschool Story Time

Join us for 30 minutes of stories, songs and fun! For ages 3-5. No registration required.

Thursday, April 7; 7:00-7:45pm

Family Story Time

This cozy evening Story Time includes stories, songs and a simple craft for children and parents to enjoy together. For ages birth-6. No registration required.

Saturday, April 9; 1pm-2pm

Oil Spill! Walk on the Wild Side with Barbara Gustafson

An oil spill occurs somewhere in the world almost everyday. Come and learn about how spills occur, clean-up methods and how we can help prevent oil spills. Experiment with oil clean-up methods on a mini oil spill mock-up. For children ages 5-9. Please register beginning Saturday, March 26- call 463-2069. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

Friday, April 15; 11am

Rhyme Time! With Nancy Stewart

Join Nancy Stewart for this musical celebration of poetry. Sing, dance and play with words that rhyme. Her big backdrop will include large colorful words, and the children will

help create some of the rhymes to sing. For children age 2-7. Please register beginning Friday, **April 1**-call 463-2069.

Saturday, April 16; 9:00 - 10:30am

Microsoft Excel, Level 2

This is Microsoft's popular spreadsheet program, an advanced class designed to teach you how to set up absolute cell references so you can copy formulas correctly. Prerequisite: Excel Level 1 or basic Excel skills. Pre-registration is required and begins **April 1**. Call 463-2069 to register.

Monday, April 18; 7pm-8:15pm

Young Writer's Rendezvous

Come be a part of this on-going group and experience writing for fun in a social atmosphere. Pizza will be served! For ages 10-14. No registration required, just come when you can. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

Friday, April 22, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Jewish Stories for Everyone with Julie Warwick

Jewish storyteller Julie Warwick returns to Nextbook and King County Library System with brand new performances for families. She will be telling interactive stories based on folktales and picture books, including the Hebrew legend of The Two Brothers, which celebrates "how good it is for brothers to live together in friendship." She will also tell stories from the foolish town of Chelm. In the performances Julie incorporates Israeli dances and Jewish songs. Currently a Jewish family learning consultant, Julie Warwick has a degree in music Education from the Indiana University School of Music. For ages 3-11. Sponsored by Nextbook and King County Library System. Reservations are encouraged and begin **April 1**. Call the Vashon Library to register, 463-2069

Saturday, April 23; 6-10pm

Late Night @ the Library

Please join us for an evening at the Vashon Library Cyber Café. Surf the World Wide Web or play a game of chess, cards, Magic or Monopoly. Refreshments! Door Prizes! Security will be provided. For teens only. (6th-12th grades.) Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library, Connections and Vashon Park District.

Watershed Planning Group Meets

Island members of the Vashon Watershed Planning Group will be accompanied by King County and Department of Ecology staff to present draft recommendations regarding water supply at a public meeting on **Wednesday evening, April 6, 2005.**

The group hopes to receive and consider public comments before seeking endorsements from the Vashon Maury Island Community Council and the Groundwater Protection Committee.

The April 6 meeting is the second meeting on these issues following one that was held on March 16. The purpose of this meeting is for the public to review the recommendations being proposed and offer their comments. The meeting will be held:

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Chautauqua Elementary School, Multipurpose Room
9309 SW Cemetery Road, Vashon

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

After review by King County, the plan would be presented as part of the Kitsap Peninsula's Watershed Resources Inventory Area (or WRIA) 15 Plan.

Vashon's plan contains a scientific foundation and recommendations unique to the islands. These recommendations were developed by islanders with input from King County and the Department of Ecology as part of the statewide watershed planning process. Recommendations have been developed regarding water

rights, conservation, water service, wells, stream flows, fuel tanks, septic systems and storm water.

The Watershed Planning Group will meet on **Tuesday, April 12** at the Vashon Library from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. to review and consider public comments received on the draft Vashon Watershed Plan. As always, the public is invited to attend this working session. If more time is needed, a subsequent meeting may be scheduled for **Tuesday, April 19.**

The Vashon Maury Island Groundwater Protection Committee is scheduled to review and consider endorsement of the plan at its April 27th meeting. The Vashon Maury Island Community Council will consider a motion to endorse the plan at its May meeting.

Passage of the WRIA 15 Kitsap Peninsula Plan would make King County and Vashon eligible for a portion of at least \$400,000 in state funds to implement the plan. This "Phase 4" funding would only be granted once the Metropolitan King County Council (and the other twenty plus jurisdictions participating) formally adopt the plan.

For more information about this process, contact King County staff member Susan Oxholm at 206-296-1984 or susan.oxholm@metrokc.gov or islander and Watershed Planning Group member Jeremy Pratt at 206-567-4647 or jeremypratt@bigfoot.com.

Be the Change You Wish to See (in the World)

Compassionate Communication Workshop

The Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship is sponsoring a 12-hour benefit workshop on Compassionate Communication (also known as non-violent communication) to be presented by Doug Dolstad and Associates of The Puget Sound Network for Compassionate Communication. It will take place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, **April 15-17** with a Friday evening introduction to be held at Chautauqua Elementary School. The Saturday and Sunday sessions will be held at the Presbyterian Church.

Child care for children 3-11 will be provided (no diapers please). Suggested donation for the Friday session is \$25 and for the complete 12 hour workshop, \$75 to \$200, depending on which sessions are attended. No one will be turned

away because of a temporary inability to pay. For information on the content of the workshop contact Doug Dolstad, 463-2533, and for logistics information contact Wendy Wharton, 463-2342.

What is Compassionate Communication? Compassionate Communication (also called Nonviolent Communication) offers a practical process for connecting honestly and compassionately with ourselves and each other. Here is the chance to transform blame, criticism, and guilt into something more effective, more fun, and less costly. To find out more about Compassionate Communication check out these websites: www.nonviolentcommunication.com, www.cnvc.org, or www.psnc.org ooooo



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Ron Sims at 34th District Meeting

Ron Sims, King County Executive, will be the main speaker at the April 14 meeting of the 34th District Democrats. His topics will include the White Center annexation, the Viaduct, Sound Transit, and county labor-management relations.

Other speakers include Betty Means from Rep. Jim McDermott's office, Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin, and Seattle City Council candidates Dwight Pelz, Angel Bolanos, and Robert Rosencrantz.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. It is held at the Hall at Fauntleroy, 9131 California Ave. SW, in West Seattle.

What's Happening at Vashon Bookshop?

by Devon Atkins

April is a HUGE month at the Bookshop, from book groups to story-telling, to poetry upon poetry upon poetry, to an Environmental Symposium! (What will we think of next!)

The Bookshop's children's book groups meet on the **first and second Saturdays** of each month. The Original Kids Book Group (kids 9-13) always meets on the first Saturday for book chat, and drop-ins are always welcome, and the Second Saturday Book Group (kids 6-9) always meets on the second Saturday of each month. (Imagine that!) This is a terrific group of kids who welcome more of the same, **Saturday, April 9**, 9 am. (Call Devon Atkins, 567-4886, for the monthly emailing). And don't miss Miss Merna Hecht's fabulous story-telling, right after the Second Saturday Book Group, **Saturday, April 9**, 10 am. And, please don't forget the really big kids... The Adult Book Group meets at 7:30 pm on **Thursday, April 21**, that's the third Thursday of each month. They're just as friendly as the kids, and everyone is always welcome. (Big difference is that the kids eat doughnuts!)

And, then there's poetry! Of course, April is so sublime because April is National Poetry Month. At the Bookshop, we take poetry very, very seriously. The Poetry Salon is a monthly gathering of folks who love to share and talk about poetry. This group of intriguing and creative folks meets on the first

Thursday of each month; this month, it's **Thursday, April 7** at 7 pm. (Call Devon Atkins, 567-4886, for the monthly emailing.) And then, sponsored by all those fabulous poets of the Poetry Salon is "A Passion for Poetry," an evening of poetry of all kinds, original and otherwise, and, lots of Open Mike. This evening will be devoted to Vashon's obvious love of poetry, so don't forget to save the date: **Friday, April 22**, 7:30 pm.

Then, on the following **Friday, April 29**, 7 pm, researchers from The Evergreen State College will attend an Environmental Symposium where they will discuss how to protect the wild areas of our island and of our state. These authors of *Defending Wild Washington: A Citizen's Action Guide* will be on Vashon to meet with the champions of our environment: the folks from the Land Trust, VIGA, Sustainable Vashon, Preserve Our Islands, Audubon Society, and more. This is our community's opportunity to learn from these experts, and it is our opportunity, as a community, to learn what our dedicated Island groups are doing, right there on Vashon. If your group would like to participate, call Vashon Bookshop, 463-2616, or Devon Atkins, 567-4886. This only goes to prove, once again, that there's a lot more to the Bookshop than just books!



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Loop

Letters From the Edge

Editor,

Recently a draft of the Vashon Watershed Plan was published in the Island newspapers. I was impressed with the thought and effort put into the plan, and I applaud those people who contributed their time, often non-compensated, in developing a plan.

However, I did note a glaring omission in the plan — namely, there was no discussion of fair and equitable allocation of our water resource. Though the plan is based on the premise that Vashon has a single source aquifer which is interconnected and supplied exclusively by rainfall, it does not address the age-old problem of who should have rights to use the water. Instead, it relies on the inequitable method of giving non-pre-emptive rights to those who were first to use the water. This is like the parent who allows the child who first picked up a toy to claim it without any need to share it with others. It would seem that regardless of tradition, fair-minded adults would want to consider alternatives to the “I had it first, it’s mine” mentality.

Such issues as how much each property owner contributes to preserving our water resource would be an important consideration when deciding how much one could consume. The alternative to this approach is, to paraphrase, to give to each according to one’s need and to take from each according to one’s production. This principle has been thoroughly discredited by the failures of communal (Communist) societies worldwide. I believe that emphasizing conservation and contribution would be the most important factors in deciding allocation matters.

The Vashon Watershed Plan’s recommendation to implement a moratorium on new development permits not only fails to address fairness of allocation, it fails to prevent the problem of preserving what we have before we run out. If the Vashon Plan truly reflects a concern to preserve the quantity and quality of our water, and it is determined that an immediate moratorium is necessary (and I’m not convinced it is), a more effective and equitable moratorium would be one on increasing the use of water by any party. This would translate into:

1. Not allowing any growth in family size, i.e., not having

children, not moving in an aged parent, not having an increase in visits by guests.

2. Not increasing the capacity of restaurants.

3. Not increasing the patient load of medical and dental clinics.

4. Not increasing the capacity of our sewage treatment facilities.

5. Not allowing further development on any land.

Is it any more ludicrous to propose a moratorium which limits family growth and the ability of businesses to serve customers than it is to prevent property owners who are good land stewards and make positive contributions to our water resource from exercising the right to use their land? The major contributors to our water resource are those landowners who use their land in such a fashion that they preserve the most open space. The moratorium presently proposed in the Vashon Watershed Plan penalizes just these people. It diminishes the value of their land while rewarding with higher land values many people who may already have developed their property beyond its ability to absorb rain and replenish the aquifer.

If we collectively own the water resource, then we all should have equal rights to use that resource. No group of citizens should be allowed to prevent any other citizen from consuming a share of the resource simply because they were first to exploit it. Developing a plan that preserves the rights of all citizens is the only plan that we should consider implementing in both the short and the long term.

In reality, it seems the water shortage issue is being used as a guise to further the no-growth agenda. If there were a real and imminent water shortage, the emphasis of any plan to solve the problem should be to increase water availability and quality as well as to encourage conservation. For example, landowners would be allowed to build retention ponds which would contribute to the increased absorption of rainwater. Incentives should replace regulatory obstacles for those who wish to take such steps.


Larry DeFaccio
Larry DeFaccio is a retired Professional Engineer and small business operator who has with his family been a Vashon Island landowner and resident for 36 years.



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Marie and Troy

Affordable Homes

Continued from page 1

Construction is due to start late summer or fall. Vashon Household’s mission is to protect island diversity by preserving affordable housing for Islanders and their families.

Although final prices are not yet set, the homes will be sold at far-below the market rate, with mortgages as low as \$165,000 for a newly-built, quality home. Selected owner/builders will be eligible for government-subsidized mortgage loans with rates as low as 1%.

The homes will be clustered around a central green on modestly sized lots, surrounded by 12 acres of preserved open space. The property also features four acres of farmland, adjacent to the home sites, that has been leased to local organic growers.

The program is open to those who have not owned a home in the past three years and to individuals and families who earn less than 80% of the King County median income (currently \$46,400 for a 2 person household; \$52,200 for a 3 person household; \$58,000 for a 4 person household).

Applicants to the project must qualify for the subsidized mortgage program and be willing to work 35 hours per week, per household, in the building process. Those unable to put in the required hours may seek help from friends and family members willing to work on their behalf.

The future neighborhood will be named after the late Rose Ballen, a beloved Islander who co-founded Vashon Household in the late 1980’s. The homes will be built on part of the old Mukai Family strawberry farm. To honor the family, the road around the community green will be named Mukai Circle.

The Roseballen homes will be built, in part, with funds provided by King County, Washington State and the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development program. Additional support for Vashon Household has been provided by Washington Mutual, the Seattle Foundation and hundreds of Island donors.

Vashon Household is using a Community Land Trust (CLT) approach to keep the homes permanently affordable to future generations of Islanders. An informational meeting about the Roseballen project will be held **Saturday, May 7th** from 9 a.m. to noon in the Common House at Vashon Co-Housing, 10421 Bank Road just west of town.

To R.S.V.P. or for more information, contact Jeri Nickell at 463-6455.

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Preschool Auction!

Continued from page 1

the school scholarship fund and supplies all come out of the proceeds of this vital event.

Now for the incredible line-up of items for the live and silent auctions. Some of the standout items that will be auctioned include a **four-hour show by Vashon’s R & B band Loose Change**, great art—paintings by **Pam Ingalls** and **Karen Fox** and a glass hat by **Brian Brenno**; exciting **vacation accommodations at Big White, Grand Targhee** and **a week in Bordeaux, France**; ever popular and useful services including a day’s **heavy equipment work from Roggenbuck Construction**, a **cooking class from the chef at Express Cuisine**, and corporate **tax preparation**. The selection of tickets to sports events, fine wine, and personal services from massage to professional carpet cleaning contribute to an amazing offering of auction items for every taste. With over 200 goods and services to buy, there is something for any size pocket book.

Dinner, wine and beer will be served and are included with the purchase of the auction tickets. Personal chef Tiffany Schira will be dishing up great food featuring a pig roasted Hawaiian style just for this event. Zoomies is providing ice-cream desserts.

All of these incredible prizes and donations will help fund the Vashon-Maury Island Cooperative Preschool’s



5 Alarm News

Islanders for Representative Fire Leadership

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programs. The great success of the Coop Preschool’s auctions has enabled the school to hire and keep outstanding staff and develop an important scholarship fund to help pay tuition for children otherwise unable to attend the preschool. The teachers and the connection to South Seattle Community College provide great learning adventures for both children and parents. Registration for next year’s classes for children ages nine months to five years is open right now. Contact the preschool at 463-2779 for information on its classes.

So come out and get your tickets at Books By the Way, the Burton Coffee Shop, Zoomies and at the door or from preschool families. Tickets are \$20 and include all the food, entertainment and the fun of bidding on those great auction items.

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Spiritual Smart Aleck

by Mary Litchfield Tuel



My Morning Constitutional

This week I sat down and read the Constitution of the United States. I had been challenged to do so by a friend of my husband’s a few weeks ago, and I finally got around to it.

It is easily available. I googled it and chose from the many sites that have the full text, printed it and the Amendments, and started reading.

I was amazed at how familiar it was, because I do not believe I have ever read it in full, not even back in U.S. History class, where I do remember being required to memorize the preamble. You know: “We the People of the United States...” etc.

It is a short and simple document, and the language, though it is 1770s American English, is not hard to understand. It has seven Articles. Article I establishes the Legislative Branch of government; Article II establishes the Executive Branch; Article III establishes the Judicial Branch.

Article IV outlines state rights. This is why you can get married in Washington and still be married if you move to Idaho. Clause 3 says that if you’re a slave in one state, you’re a slave in every state, even states that are free states. That clause was repealed by the thirteenth amendment.

Article V gives Congress the right to amend the Constitution.

Article VI declares invalid all debts incurred before the adoption of the Constitution; establishes the law of the land; and says that all elected Legislative members both Federal and State, and all executive and judicial Officers, both Federal and State, are “bound by Oath of Affirmation to support this Constitution, but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office of public Trust under the United States.*”

Article VII states that “The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the states so ratifying the Same.”

Of course, no sooner had the thing been written than people had to start changing it, so the first ten amendments were attached, and were called the Bill of Rights.

Article I, the rights of free speech, freedom of the press, of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances; Article II, establishment of a Militia, and the right to keep and bear arms; Article III, soldiers not to be quartered in any house without consent of Owner; Article IV, right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures, no Warrants “but upon probable cause;” Article V, “No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime,” without a Grand Jury indictment; no person can be tried for the same offense twice (“double jeopardy,” a legal term, not a quiz show); no one can testify against himself,** “nor be deprived of life, liberty, or



property, without due process of law,” nor private property taken for public use without just compensation; Article VI, right to a speedy public trial by an impartial jury, to know the nature and cause of accusation, the right to confront witnesses against and call witnesses for, the right to legal counsel; Article VII, the right to trial by jury; Article VIII, prohibition of excessive bail, fines, or cruel and unusual punishment; Article IX, rights enumerated in the Constitution shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by States or the people; Article X, powers not delegated to the Federal government are reserved to the states or the people.

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So there it is, in summary. I left a lot out. People have been fighting over it from the beginning -- usually accusing someone else of doing something unconstitutional -- but how many of us have read it lately? If you aren’t on the web, you can find it at the library.

*This is the only mention of religion I found in the Constitution. God doesn’t show up anywhere.

**I was telling my husband that

when I read a document like this, I have to do that twist of interpretation little girls learn to do in their minds: “mankind includes women, too.” “Yes,” said my husband, “women are the kind part.” Aw.

Next time: the rest of the Amendments.

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Don't Forget the Birds

By Ed Swan

Savannah Sparrow

We should be hearing the vibrating buzz of the Savannah Sparrow any day now. They return to Vashon in the first week of April. Usually about the third note of their song contains a sub-sonic trill that one can feel shimmering one's eardrums like the thrumming of a Ruffed Grouse. That part of the song is almost more felt than heard.

Savannah Sparrows look very similar to a light brown Song Sparrow. They possess a lot of streaking on the breast like a Song Sparrow. They can be told apart by the presence of a small amount of yellow in between the brown streaks going over the eyes. Their bills appear yellow to tan in contrast to gray for the Song Sparrow.

The Savannah Sparrow breeds in wet fields with tall grass around the island. Good areas to look for breeding birds include the wet fields adjacent to the monument on Monument Road, the fields in Paradise Valley and the fields along Westside Highway in the Colvos and Cove areas. Savannah Sparrows fare better in Western Washington than most field and open area birds because they use relatively small patches of weedy lots to breed. However, on Vashon, this species' breeding population needs watching as the forest reclaims more fields and residential area sprawls.

Several sub-species/forms of the Savannah Sparrow move through western Washington, with the small Brooks form being the breeding form. Others such as the large Aleutian form are spring and fall migrants. Migrants on the

islands show up very visibly at KVI Beach and Pt. Robinson. It would be interesting for birders to take note of the size of birds seen along the shoreline areas to see if both Brooks and Aleutian forms pass through Vashon.

Several more breeding birds returned over the last two weeks. Orange-crowned Warblers appeared at the north end in Alan Huggins yard and at the south end at Spring Beach on March 25. The Osprey that nests along 188th was sitting on the cell tower there on March 28. At least two Common Yellowthroats were singing and setting up breeding territories in the field next to the pond at the Island Center Marsh on March 29. I counted 170 Brant geese forming a very long line along the shore at KVI Beach at low tide on March 29. That represents one of the larger flocks seen in several years on Vashon. Several small flocks have been seen at a number of locations such as KVI Beach, Ellisport, Portage and Pt. Robinson over the last few weeks. If you have an interesting bird to report or a question about local birds, call me at 463-7976 or email at edswan@centurytel.net.

A good opportunity to get out and see the returning spring birds will be the on-island field trip on **Saturday, April 9**. Meet at the Ober Park Park and Ride at 8 a.m. and plan to be done by about 10 a.m. A chance to learn how to identify birds by their songs returns with the annual Birding by Ear class taught by Steve Caldwell. The first class starts on Tuesday, March 22. Call Steve with questions or to enroll at 463-5778.

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Jim Rosso photo of Savannah Sparrow

Joanna Gardiner

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PANDORA'S BOX

Cheryl notes that she is now officially out of "free" time. Currently booked thru the 3rd week in June. Breakdown scheduled for early August.

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Now, on to business issues:

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Financial Planning 101

By Mark A. Goldman

mark@gpln.com www.gpln.com

I'm a financial planner. That's my profession. I've been given the opportunity to share some of my thinking about personal finance in an effort to help you navigate increasingly troubled waters, and to help you stay afloat. I tend to be outspoken. If I'm going to accomplish anything I don't have time to beat around the bush. I'm going to do my best to be truthful and accurate. Now obviously not everything I say here will apply to you. This is a newspaper column and it's impossible to say something in public that's going to be true for every reader. To get value from this, you're going to have to be open and you're going to have to be willing to think... even if you don't like what your hear. If you have specific questions you would like answered or if you want to comment on what you read here, let me know. I don't have a lot of space so I need to get right to the point:

First, financial planning is a subject that should be taught in public school. If they are teaching it, they're doing a lousy job. Every citizen, as soon as they are old enough to watch TV, without knowing it, gets swept into the American economic river of life. Children are consciously targeted and programmed on what to want and how to get it, first from you, later on from others. (Who would do such a thing? Bright, ambitious, insecure people who want more than anything to be a success and are under the gun to meet sales targets or lose their jobs. These are not "bad" people, but they are people who measure success by how much they sell and how much they earn, and not by how happy

and well-adjusted your children are going to be.) If you are a parent, understand that no one will ask your permission to do this to your children. They hope you are too busy and troubled to notice. If you are not vigilant, your children will learn the same unworthy values you learned when you were growing up.

One such unworthy value is the need to have what you want even when you can't afford it. Another unworthy value is to be embarrassed or ashamed that you can't afford what you want, to believe that the reason you can't afford it is because there is something wrong with you. Must be so. If other people can afford it why can't you? Certainly, you should not let anyone know you can't afford it. These messages are pervasive. They shape the social consciousness in which we live.

To make good financial decisions requires courage and self-esteem. You have to learn to respect your own humanity, who you are as a person. You have to learn to make decisions that are appropriate for you and your family even when other people are doing something else or trying to get you to do something else. That's why financial planning is not just about money... it's about life and how to be in the world in a way that makes living in the world an exciting, decent, and meaningful experience for you and others.

My Rule #1: Strive to create a lifestyle such that your annual income is more than your annual expenditures. For retirees, strive to spend an amount each year that is sustainable for the rest of your life. It is not always intuitively obvious how to accomplish these things. But we'll get into that later.

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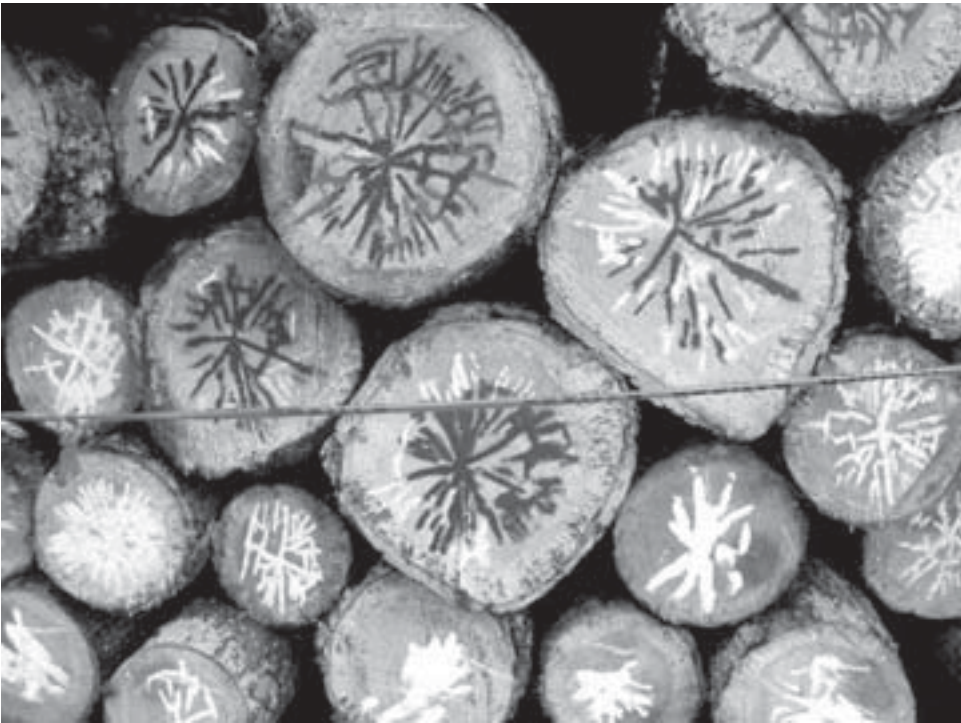
Text & photos by *Peter Ray*

In a Certain Light

When talking about photography, it always seems odd to say that it's all about the light. One just generally assumes that anything having to do with the making of a photograph, whether it is through the use of photo-sensitized films and papers or the increasingly accurate and detailed renderings fueled by those digital zeroes and ones, will have light as the most important element in this particular equation for visual expression. This also could be said of anything in the realm of art. Drawings made directly on paper, or etched into printing stones or plates, are transformed into shapes and forms with depth and dimensionality by the skillful use of cross-hatching or tinting or the simple gradation of tone from a smudge. I will always remember in art history class how Dr. Alcott continually remarked on the 'shimmer' in Constable's nineteenth century landscape paintings, driven by the abundant use of whites and light colors dotted through his dark and lush renderings of the foliage of Summer. This was both a simulation and an emulation of a certain kind of light from a certain time of day. And even though sculpture already for the most part

Photography is mostly about capturing light in a box, and in one way or another that box has a way of transforming that light into a representation of the thing we pointed the camera at in the first place. If there is not enough light falling on that subject, many cameras these days flood the under lit subject with enough light to satisfactorily register an image. With the recent passing of fashion and portrait photographer Richard Avedon, we have lost one of the masters of the artificially lit photograph. One of the first things I would look for when the New Yorker arrived was Avedon's weekly pictorial contribution; whether it was a single, stark portrait or a sprawling photo spread, his photos never ceased to hold me in their spell. Avedon's light gave his subjects a volume, texture and shimmer that was unique in the world of light-captured form and expression, but my appreciation of his skill was not learned from the observation of his craft.

I first discovered that photography was all about light by making pictures of plants. For years I stood next to my camera and tripod in gardens, hovering over plants and plant



Rosetta Logs

exists in three dimensions, light plays an important role in showing off its surface, whether it's smooth or textured, and revealing its volume and form through differences in highlights and cast shadows. Architecture takes this one step further, not only dealing with the play of light on an external surfaces or structural elements, but also by showing a concern for how light finds its way inside a building and what it does for the interior spaces once it gets there.

combinations. I would hold my breath, trying not to inspire a breeze, and punch away at the cable release once all plant parts had stopped moving. Then it was off to the processor with multiple rolls of nearly duplicate images that would come home to be lined out across a light box in eager anticipation of being selected as the best of the bunch. I slowly learned through seeing that it wasn't necessarily the sharpness of the image or the extent of the depth of field, but rather a bit of



Sky Lights

all of this, as well as a certain quality of the light, that pointed toward the winner nearly every time. I also learned that what was best for my eye was not always the choice of the magazine editor at the other end of the FedEx trip, but that's another story.

I will confess that it is at least partly a reaction to this obsessive pursuit of visual perfection through choices and changes of lenses and long and bracketed exposures and rolls of wasted film that brought me to embrace my simple 'point and shoot' digital Olympus. Admittedly, the technology involved in this miniaturized light grabbing box is a bit more than a moon shot beyond the Kodak Instamatics of yesteryear. And it did take the special 'Behind Glass' function to get our first photo this week. It was a dreary day on the boat to Fauntleroy and the gulls were gliding past the windows on the passenger deck. I wanted the camera to focus outside the cabin so I scrolled through the menu of picture taking functions. 'Behind Glass' also turns off the flash so that one doesn't get a sunburst reflected into the middle of whatever one is aiming at on the other side of the pane. The gulls had changed their flight path by this time, so all I captured floating just below the brooding cloud cover were two fluorescent panels drifting in the sky. This kind of reminded me of a body of painting work a friend did years ago, with panels of color complementary to the rest of the work imposed on realist/ surreal landscapes. My photo captured a similar mood and I liked it all the better for its lack of winged intruders.

The second picture was shot at the Forest Stewards' milling facility. I was fascinated by the painting on the ends of the logs that were stacked and waiting to be milled. I had guessed correctly that the white and brown paint was meant to seal the log ends in order to slow

down the drying process and help to keep the lumber from checking after it had been milled. In covering all the cracks, the resulting forms and patterns looked like some alien calligraphy or perhaps some sacred tribal symbols from somewhere. With an overcast day, the muted contrast gave the log ends the appearance more of paving stones than the south end of a log deck. And finally, it was the semi-diffuse light falling on a group of plants at the back of one of my greenhouses that caught my eye for the last photo. I had put the potted plants next to each other to see how their leaf variations would mix and match, as well as in the hopes that the proximity of their flowers would make any bee-borne crossing all that much more likely. I was pleasantly surprised to see that this happenstance, point and shoot piece would have been something I might have waited hours for in another level of photographic seriousness. So it goes.

The postcard project continues. Three dollars will get you all the pictures in this article sent as postcards in this week's mailing, one buck for each one, or if you'd like, send any amount to receive these cards and more in the future. Make sure you include your mailing address. Send all requests to 10322 SW 165th St., Vashon Island, WA 98070 00000



Holding A Vision

by Wintry Sheehan

There's a lot to be said for holding a vision. It can create a sense of empowerment or imply a burden of responsibility. In order to avoid the latter, I find it's always best to do it within a community.

My daughter Gabi attends The Madrona School. Madrona is a parent-run school, lots of work sometimes but lots of payoff. As a parent I've received not only a wonderfully nurturing, empowering experience for my child, but the unexpected benefit of a fully present, emotionally abundant community.

As co-creators in the school we parents have the opportunity to directly determine what our children will experience to a degree that warms my control-freak heart. My personal passion is sustainability. At Madrona, sustainability applies to more than natural resources. The first level of sustainability is the sustaining of self-worth, a part of our core philosophy.

Child-directed learning creates a belief in their innate ability to

We strive to teach sustainability of their physical form and surroundings. Their creation and maintenance of the school garden delegates to them direct responsibility for sustaining their body's health. They learn how the choices they make (to garden organically, etc.) affects not only their health but that of their immediate environment. Thinking of them harvesting and then cooking food invested with their work and their spirit and fully integrating their curriculum to include the mathematics, humanities, and literature (imagine the poems about sugar snap peas!) in food production, has me educationally salivating.

Madrona eventually plans to encompass grades K-12. As our students age they will have years of experience in organic gardening, which could be utilized as a resource. With mentoring from our adult community they may create products to creatively address a problem like waste water, not only solving it but turning it into a



Gardeners Amayah Royer (8), Lily Lott (7), KieranENZIAN (5), Lily Robinthal (6), Sam Metke-Ramsell (10), Zach Hershey (6), Dixon Politte (7)

participate in and own their academic life. Non-violent communication and conflict resolution honors their worth as individuals and teaches them to honor others, constantly mirroring to one another their inherent value.

resource, developing and prototyping products here and then partnering with students in urban areas for real-life implementation.

Perhaps they will create new income streams for their community, decreasing its

VASHON RESIDENTS CONTINUE RAISING FUNDS FOR TSUNAMI RELIEF

By Betsy Model

The residents and businesses of one small island off the coast of Seattle continue to raise funds for those impacted the most by the December 26 earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Southeast Asia.

Even as the three-month anniversary of the natural disaster approaches, Vashon Islanders continue to send relief monies to international charities who earmark those funds specifically for aiding those who lost family members, homes and livelihoods in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Sandy Sheldon, owner of Cafe Luna, started a caffeine-fueled fundraising effort a week after the disaster. Dubbed "Lattes for Life,"

Sheldon donated a portion of proceeds from every coffee drink sold during an eight-day period plus put a "Tsunami Relief Fund" jar in plain view of the cafe's customers. Between the donation jar and the proceeds from coffee drinks, the program raised a total of \$1,373.

If the program provided a challenge, Sheldon said, it was that customers wanted to physically do more than just put change in a jar. "There was truly overwhelming support," said Sheldon, "and people kept coming up with additional ideas about other ways to help, including additional fundraising efforts here on the island. Our employees had ideas, our customers and the musicians who play here all had



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dependence on outside sources and increasing its self-reliance, hence its sustainability.

We want our children to recognize that sustainability offers a wealth not contained in bank accounts but in a portfolio that includes self-worth, the health of your water and soil, and the strength of your community. That what is ultimately of value should not be determined by Madison Avenue, but by what sustains your heart. That we need to sustain our community because our community sustains us. And that ultimately, our community is as large as the Earth.

But although we parents can provide a structure for how a vision is realized from funding sources to business and project planning, the bottom line is that the students have to be passionate about it as well. Gabi may have a love for the performing arts, for physics or auto mechanics, instead of sustainability. At Madrona she has access to the visions of other parents, as well as their enthusiasm. This summer, Madrona will be holding our first annual vision retreat where we will plan our long-term program. And we are dedicated to not only holding but manifesting these visions because we have the strongest motivator we have ever found—our children.∞∞∞

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Deadline to get in *The Loop* is Friday, April 15. Email editor@vashonloop.com or, if you MUST, snail mail PO Box 253, Vashon, WA 98070

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Next deadline is Tax Day! Give to the War Machine; send Peace Rocks

Continued on page 21

Dating on an Island

by Jessie Preste



Ok folks, I’ve only had six replies back about Speed Dating, so speak up soon, if you are interested! Just email me at jessiepreste@hotmail.com.

Personal Ads, part two. I know that most of us have gone trolling for people on websites like Eharmony.com, Match.com and Yahoo. You’ve gotta love the user names too; sweetwhispers, hottotrot, and my personal favorite: Bigmike4u. It’s kind of a blind draw though. Oftentimes, what they say they are looking for and what they actually want are two different color horses. I was on Match.com and had quite the interesting experience. The last date I went on was at a high-tone restaurant up in Ballard on the water. His picture looked kinda cute, so I thought I’d give it a shot. Whoa... he so didn’t look like his picture. Well, that was ok, I was looking for a good heart, not necessarily a pretty face -- yo? So we sat down and ordered drinks and did the whole getting to know you dance. Sometimes you can just tell if there’s that somethin’ somethin’, and sometimes you just have to wade through a bit to find a spark. This was a wader. Fortunately, this guy was nice enough to get all his weirdness out on the table fairly immediately.

I say fortunately, because sometimes you have to wait six months or more for somebody to cut loose, and then you get spattered with the resulting existential goo. Anyway, this guy immediately starts talking about pretending to be a narcoleptic to get out of the Navy, and me, raised in the South and taught to be polite and keep the conversation going in any and all circumstances, well, I was temporarily speechless. I got through quite a few murmured “Oh, reallys?” so by the time he got around to talking about how spiritual it was watching the video cam of his grandfather’s colonoscopy, I was really starting to enjoy myself. I just KNEW this man wasn’t for me, so I just settled down and made the best of it. As my Momma always says, “There’s a pot for every lid,” so I know that somebody somewhere out there may truly appreciate colonoscopy boy, but I sure knew it wasn’t me. It’s a hit or miss deal, but what’s necessary, in my opinion anyway, is not to take dating too seriously; it’s not like you have to go into each encounter thinking, “this had

better be ‘the one’”. It’s bound to be disappointing. As Judith Maguire, one of my heroines and Date Girl columnist for the Seattle Weekly says, you have to be yourself, have a whole lot of luck, and have a thick skin in the dating arena.

Sure, maybe there’s ninety-nine people out there who think you are downright eccentric, but then there’s that one who thinks that you’re the best thing since sliced bread, and maybe, if the heavens are aligned just right, you’ll think the same thing right back. The personal ads in *The Loop* are just another fun way to get your intentions out there. Here’s the deal: write an ad, put it, a check made out to *The Vashon Loop*, (Maybe 20 words an inch? We’re winging it here. \$15 for a 1 inch ad, \$25 for a 2 inch ad) and your contact info in an envelope and drop it off with our buddy Phil at Flash Photo uptown. Your contact info is confidential. If someone is interested in your ad, then they drop off their response and preferred contact info off with Phil, or email it to me directly, and I’ll pass it on to the person who placed the ad. Responding to an ad is FREE. Did I mention that? FREE! Then, the person looks through their responses and decides whom to contact back, so be creative in your response. Piece of cake.

Tips for writing the ad; Be yourself, be positive, include what you feel is truly important upfront, like “single mom”, resist the urge to just list adjectives, put them in context and make your personality shine through. It’s interesting to write an ad; it’s empowering to write positively about yourself and empowering to choose whom to respond to — it’s also quite fun ‘cause that’s really what it’s all about! Thought for the day: “Perseverance in getting what you want is your gift to yourself.” ‘Till next time! ☺☺☺

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“SF, 50’s, seeking SM/SDM mid-40’s to 60’s - Do you wanna’ dance....take long walks by the water.....go kayaking? Do you appreciate being a never-ending learner, ever-deepening? Value family, friendship, humor, communication? Are you at peace with your past &/or ever-practicing? Take delight in Nature? See conflict as an opportunity for growth? Do you sing with the moon? See aging as ageless? Feel the Sacred Connection to Life’s heartbeat? Well, then, let’s dance!”
#006

UNAMERICAN WOMAN WANTED
Brave, open-hearted woman desired for adventure. If you have a strong desire to explore the outdoors, your spiritual connection to the world and your highest potential, I would like to meet you. If you have an activist heart come talk with me. I am known to be too open and honest. I enjoy facing my fears. I love growing children, plants and community.
#001

Optimistic, Reasonably fit, reasonably attractive, SWF, late 50’s, looking for a SM of similar age and qualities. Must share all or most of my priority list of interests - art, music, travel, family, friends, laughter. Interested parties must contact me without delay because soon I leave to make footprints in the sands of other lands.
#003

Gray haired, happily single, good lookin’ woman would love to be a cuddly canoodeling companion to a nice guy over 60. Must be peacenik who likes to walk, go to movies, read, play, and laugh. Out there?
#002

Warm, witty writer, single woman, 36, Smart and sassy, independent, with faith in myself and my abilities. I snort when I laugh, and laugh loudly and often. Looking for a SM with faith in himself and others, creative, smart, and sensuous. I do great flying solo, but would like to share life’s ups and downs with a companion and partner in crime. Gotta love family, friends, camping, laughter, and animals.
#005

SWM, 61, 5’9", HWP, athletic, intelligent, ISO wisdom seeking, fun woman for nurturing friendship/ LTR.
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Positively Speaking

By Deborah H. Anderson

Pretentiousness or Privilege; That is the Question, Part I

True confession. I've been trying to get off the Island for about ten years now. In today's times, that's a kind of heresy. When we moved on twelve years ago, the Island was very different. New people were viewed with suspicion. Shunning and mean-spiritedness were a form of freshman hazing. The first few weekends, our house was t.p'd. And then egged. I had a particularly beautiful daughter and a really smart son and fitting into a 'set in concrete' social system in the eighth grade was a near impossibility. Let me tell you, those kids let them know in no uncertain terms they were not welcome. I had similar incidences. The first Monday we were here, we found ourselves sitting in the movie theatre singing Christmas Carols up on the big screen. My oldest son leaned over and said, "You have dragged us into a damned Norman Rockwell painting!" A job had come up. My then husband, whom I didn't know was in the process of leaving us, had told me to take it. As we sat cowering in the house the third weekend, waiting for the honking horns, the yells and whatever missile was going to be thrust at our home, I was beginning to think, "Yea...Norman Rockwell on acid!"

This suspicion of newcomers was supposed to be quaint. Somewhere Angela Lansbury was riding around on a bike giving out muffins and advice. As I listened through those first few years, I found that one was to simply endure the hazing and the very fact that you were still standing would be noted and then eventually there would be a pat on the back and someone would decree, "You're all right."

The other thing that was a burr under my skin was the self congratulation of the Island. We were always telling ourselves we were the best. Having come from the mainland moving in some really excellent circles, I found this utterly offensive. Good grief, we were talking about a people that were so heavily medicated they couldn't get by in a completely placid place with little if any tension without being baked or fried. How on earth could you be the best if you couldn't handle the competition?

Despite my best efforts, I could not find a way to move off. It was as if I had shackles on my wrists and ankles. I chafed. I defended my children as best I could. I dreamed of sunnier and warmer climes.

Then a funny thing happened. Some newcomers got a hold of me and some old timers who thought freshman hazing was silly came alongside. At my deepest, darkest hours, when the morals of a cloistered rural community where you could get away with anything as long as you were related to somebody who had been deemed powerful, I was extended the right hand of fellowship and the ardor of filial love. I bathed in it. I let it sweep me away and take the focus from the stern faces and upturned noses to the possibilities of a community like Vashon.

I remember this news reporter, Garrett Koepping, who wrote in his farewell column he thought the Island should change their attitude towards newcomers. In the last ten years that has happened big time. It happened mainly because a new breed of newcomer came who felt more entitled and had more personal power than the long-standing, easy going, social confirmation by association. When I first met them, I found my defenses in place and my guard on high alert. When I realized perhaps the disease of suspicion had come my way, I worked hard to look with new eyes and a less fearful heart.

I still think we have to do grave battle against pretentiousness. We are very good at being big fish in a small pond. But we are choosing to be a small pond. We cannot be arrogant about our accomplishments. We can feel deep satisfaction, but we choose not to be world class competitors. We need to be OK with that. To become world class competitors we need to have two hundred

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sixty five restaurants, four, not just one, bridges off the Island, several universities, huge art galleries, a symphony, ballet, opera, right here on the Island. But, I get ahead of myself.

Let me close this first half of my musings by telling you that two weeks ago, I finally found out I'm meant to stay on the Island. I've looked around and said, Hmmmmmm. I've thought a little about what it means to plant oneself here. And as I pause in the middle of this thinking, I'm packing my bags for Kiev, Ukraine. I'm being sent on a most remarkable trip where I, along with sixty five others, will sing, work with orphans and widows

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and take in the other side of the world. I do not know if I can get my next column to you. I do not know if I have any street smarts left to venture competently in such an unfamiliar culture. But, after ten years of equivocating about the place where I found myself stuck, I do know I can go with the flow and be open to those who are genuine, loving and caring.

It will prepare me for the next thoughts about privilege. **ooooo**

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H. MACYS	Q. REACH	Z. NOPE
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There is often a chasm, of course, between scholarly and political acumen. Misguided imperial aggression has regularly been advocated by experts of formidable erudition. — Ian Buruma, "Lost in Translation"



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Introducing Vashon Farmer’s Collective! Local Produce now on sale at Minglement!

In response to growing demand from the Vashon-Maury Island community for more locally grown food, seven farms have joined together to form the Vashon Farmer’s Collective, a new organization of growers created to offer both a wider variety and larger quantities of locally grown food seven days a week, all year long at Minglement. Farmers have been hearing over the last few years that if we made it more convenient and more accessible, islanders would buy more local food more often. The owner and staff of Minglement have been extremely supportive and have been selling VFC produce for two months. We also plan to expand by offering our produce to local caterers, restaurants, and any other client who desires our fantastic vegetables, berries, eggs, and flowers. The current members of Vashon Farmer’s Collective are Blue Moon Farm, Timken Farm, the Lavender Sisters, Pacific Potager, Homestead Gardens, Flowers from the Land, and Plum Forest Farm.

The idea for the Vashon Farmer’s Collective came from several farmers who sell at the Saturday Farmer’s Market but grow much more food than we can sell once a week. Combined with the

desire from the community for more outlets for local food, we joined together and found a way to give islanders what they have been asking for. We contacted Eva De Loach, the owner of Minglement and she and her fabulous staff were enthusiastic about becoming the first purveyor of VFC’s offerings. Vashon Farmer’s Collective has been delivering delicious food such as salad greens, braising greens, spinach, squash, mustard greens, collard greens, leeks, beets, eggs and flowers every Wednesday for over six weeks now and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Even without any publicity, the customers have started to show up, buy our local produce, and show their support for island farms.

Not only is the food more delicious and nutritious, the flowers more beautiful and life enhancing, but you are saving the planet by choosing to buy local, sustainably grown food. As our dependence on oil to transport food around the world becomes more expensive and deadly, the importance of locally grown food has increased. Those of you who object to the globalization of our food can make a REAL impact by buying food grown on Vashon instead. Supporting your local

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farmers also ensures that food will continue to be grown here on Vashon and that farming will continue striving to become an economically viable enterprise. The Vashon Farmers Collective hopes to add to the local food revolution happening on Vashon, in the Northwest, and around the world.

As people become more educated about conventional food growing practices involving chemicals harmful to consumers, workers, and our planet, they have begun to seek out alternatives. The organic movement has come a long way, but we believe that the Vashon Farmer’s Collective is beyond organic. We grow food not only organically, but ethically, sustainably, and in your neighborhood. The farmers of Vashon Farmer’s Collective have chosen to write and sign a Pledge of Growing Practices to describe to consumers how we grow and the ethics behind small farming. The

pledge, posted in its entirety at Minglement, consists of nine points we feel are imperative acts that we as farmers can take not only to grow great food but to help preserve our planet for generations to come. A few examples are:

- Maintain and build healthy soil by farming practices that include rotating crops annually, using compost, cover crops, green manures, and reducing tillage
- Reject the use of synthetic insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and fertilizers
- Strive to support small seed companies that work at maintaining genetic diversity and developing regional varieties.
- Reject the use of GMOs, chemically treated seeds, synthetic toxic materials, irradiation, and sewer sludge; Handle raw manure and soil amendments with care.
- Test our soil and water for contaminants to ensure compliance with federal regulations.
- Conserve natural resources by reducing erosion and pollution of the air, soil and water through responsible farming practices.
- Create beneficial habitat for wildlife, encourage biodiversity, and sustain the land in healthy condition for future generations. Strive to reduce the ecological footprint of farms and homes by limiting energy use and converting to renewable sources of energy.

We believe that one of the healthiest, sustainable and radical things you can do is to eat locally and your farmers of the Vashon Farmers Collective are helping to make that happen. Please visit Minglement any day of the week, 10 am to 6 pm, 11 am to 5 pm on Sundays and help change the world! To learn more about the Vashon Farmer’s Collective please contact Mark Timken at 463-1866.



Double Crostic by Richard Carson

Guess the answers to the clues, then transfer those letters to the corresponding numbered squares in the grid. Work back and forth between the clues and the grid until the quotation is revealed. The initial letters of the clue answers, reading down, form an acrostic revealing the source (author and title).

M1	L2	K3	V4	T5		V6	E7		T8	Y9	P10	A11	C12		K13		W14	D15	E16	T17	H18		Y19
K20		E21	C22	E23	Q24	A25	O26		G27	B28	W29	J30	E31	F32	T33		A34	I35	Q36	D37	J38	R39	C40
U41	H42		V43	B44	C45		O46	M47	A48	N49	K50	D51	Q52	B53	T54		J55	H56	O57	C58	Q59	Z60	
R61	N62	O63	D64	B65	C66	V67	I68	P69		D70	X71	Z72	R73	O74	P75	J76	B77		J78	N79	E80	D81	G82
L83	I84	D85	Z86	A87		M88	O89	I90		P91	L92	S93	M94	B95	E96	O97	A98	O99		K100	S101	T102	N103
	Q104	B105	N106	W107	M108	Y109	O110	U111	T112		R113	J114		U115	W116	L117	Z118	G119	D120	H121		P122	K123
	V124	P125	U126	O127	W128	S129	H130	D131	R132	L133		V134	P135	S136	K137	T138	P139	A140	K141	O142			

A. Disease

140 48 98 87 11 25 34

B. Refer indirectly

53 77 95 65 105 28

C. Hunter

12 66 58 40 22 45

D. Shining

131 81 70 64 15 120

E. Accepted practice

23 7 96 80 31

F. Equestrian

135 75 69 32 91

G. Shade of brown

57 127 27 82 119

H. Gimbels rival

18 130 56 42 121

I. Right to enter

16 21 35 68 84 90

J. Payment plan

38 55 114 76 30 78 99

K. Eccentric

141 123 20 100 3 13 50

L. Farm animals

83 2 92 133 117

M. Tactile sense

1 47 94 108 88

N. Composer Berlin

49 97 106 62 103 79

O. MP3 source

142 89 46 63 110 26 74

P. Horn sound

10 122 125 139

Q. Attain

24 59 104 52 36

R. Walk leisurely

39 61 113 132 73

S. Gentle push

44 136 129 93 101

T. Half of an LP

17 138 112 5 8 33 102

U. Lascivious look

41 111 115 126

V. Broadcast

43 6 4 134 67

W. Poisonous

29 107 116 128 14

X. Local expression

51 137 85 37 71

Y. Waste parts

19 9 124 109 54

Z. Slangy negative

60 86 72 118

Cultivating the Ecological Imagination: A Conversation with Jürgen Kremer

by Rondi Lightmark

“Ecological Imagination: a state of being in conversation with everything around us: animals, plants, stars, the deep magic of the earth, and the silent wisdom of the rock people—and not only with nature, but also to be in presence with our technology, the spirits of our tools, our homes, and with one another. ...”

This definition is from Jürgen Kremer, a scholar, storyteller, writer, and poet, who is coming to Vashon on Friday, April 22nd to offer an evening performance in mythic storytelling — a multisensory experience designed to evoke an inspired sense of connection with the earth and our cultural roots through music, image, chanting, and stories. On Saturday, April 23rd, he is also leading a day-long workshop for those of us who would like a deeper experience of just what cultivating this “ecological imagination” might be like.

Vashon Island is a place where people seem to care deeply about connections. Last week, I asked Kremer to say more about ecological imagination as it might pertain to us here in the Northwest:

J.K.: To have ecological imagination means to be able to experience and be responsive to everything beyond the boundaries of your skin. Also, having imagination does not mean that you “pretend” anything; it is different from fantasy. It means that you are not only deeply aware of your surroundings, but you also have the capacity to listen to the messages therein. Unfortunately, the hard part for most of us is finding that place of listening.

R.L.: *Why is it hard? Because of our fast-paced culture?*

J.K. Certainly that’s the easy answer. There are other, more deeply buried issues. The loss of community, which was a container for the rituals that honored and helped us practice the listening. Also, in Western culture, we—meaning those of us who are not indigenous to North America—have three major wounds that we have difficulty acknowledging: the loss of our own cultural roots through immigration, the Native American genocide, and the practice of the slave trade. We have to acknowledge the psychological cost of that history as part of opening ourselves to what has always been there: what I call “the nurturing conversation.”



Jürgen Kremer

R . L . . :
How would this apply to us on Vashon?

J.K.: It would be important to acknowledge those who were here before, not in the sense of simply recording who they were and what they did, but to acknowledge their rich experience of place. Natives were the earliest practitioners of the ecological imagination. It is difficult, but we have to admit to their profound loss and destruction.

At the same time, it is also important to know your own roots, and to acknowledge losses and changes of identity. Who were your people? What happened to them? What are their deep stories that told of men and women with a certain vision of the nurturing conversation?

R.L.: *I know that you did this yourself. Can you say more?*

J.K.: As a German and a white man, I found it extraordinarily difficult to grow



up knowing that I belong to a tradition of violence and destruction that stretches back for thousands of years. I finally went on a search for my cultural roots, determined to go back far enough, to find a connection that was akin to what many see in indigenous peoples today. I found a helpful connection in the Sami (Lapp) peoples of the European Arctic region. Today, I bring what I have learned from those people to a specific piece of land in northern California, where I practice being in community with a number of friends and the support of indigenous individuals. My work and performances are inspired both by that journey I took, and also by my experience of how community can

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Saturday April 23rd, 9 am – 5 pm

For information and to register for the workshop, call 463-6255.

Tickets for Evening Performance are available at Vashon Bookshop and at the door. Both events are at The Land Trust Building on Bank Road.

support a search for connection. The more deeply we know ourselves in the rich sense of the nurturing conversation with all that surrounds us, the more we can be fully present in the environment. And from that presence, transformation begins.

Kremer is a professor at Saybrook Graduate School in San Francisco, executive editor of Revision: The Journal of Consciousness Studies, and has explored subjects as diverse as the impact of colonization, Norse mythology, ethnoautobiography, healing and cosmology, and the power of the bear in northern cultures.

Rondi Lightmark is a writer and editor on psychology and spirituality, a therapist, and an inspired newcomer to Vashon. For more information on Kremer, his performances and workshops, contact her at 463-6255 or lightmark@copper.net.

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Hopkins Concert at Café Luna

“Hopkins” will be returning to perform at Café Luna on Vashon Island on **Saturday, April 23** from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Hoppy Hopkins is a singer-songwriter who started playing guitar at age 13. Her music was influenced by early rock groups like The Beatles and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. For more than ten years, she has been captivating Northwest audiences with her unique brand of acoustic poetry at folk festivals big and small, as well as coffee shops and pubs in the greater Seattle area. She is known for heartfelt lyrics based on her own life experiences. Hoppy also believes that passing on traditional American folk music is important, and she brings passion and enthusiasm to works by Woody Guthrie and other American songwriters and folk interpreters. Join her on April 23 for an evening of fine acoustic music and poetry.

LIVING WELL WITH PLANTS

Text and drawings by Kathy Abascal (AHG)



Skip the Liver Flush

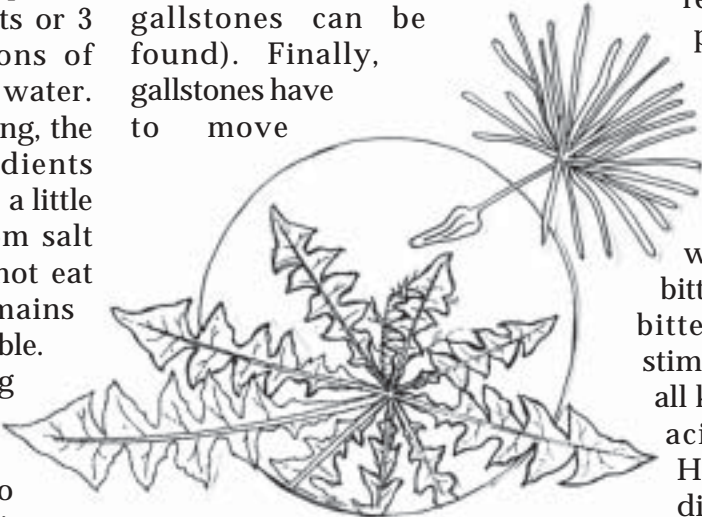
Many people do a cleanse as winter turns to spring. In the olden days, this cleanse occurred almost automatically because the first greens of the spring were bitter and usually caused the runs. Today, people plan their cleanses more deliberately, and many will decide to do a flush hoping to remove gallstones from their livers. There are hundreds of websites dedicated to these flushes, and many have pictures of large stones shaken loose by the flush.

The flush consists of ½ cup of olive oil, the juice and pulp of 1 large or 2 small grapefruits or 3 lemons, and 4 tablespoons of Epsom salts dissolved in water. Over the course of an evening, the person drinks the ingredients separately: A little olive oil, a little citrus juice, a lot of Epsom salt water. The person does not eat during the flush, and remains lying down as much as possible. There are some interesting variations on the flush recipe including one that uses Classic Coca Cola to wash down the oil and citrus juice. Another regimen, only for “liver cleansing veterans,” has you down two cups of olive oil in a short period of time. Whichever flush used, a mild diarrhea usually results during which a number of “gallstones” are passed. These stones float and can be collected in a strainer and counted. Hulda Clarke, one of the best known proponents of the flush, says that a person should pass at least 2000 stones before their liver can be considered ‘clean.’

Judging from the pictures, the flush does produce some impressive stone-like objects. What are they? An M.D. who spends his spare time building an interesting pathology web site (www.pathguy.com) assures that they are not gallstones because: gallstones have a polyhedral shape while the flush stones are round. Gallstones sink in water while the flush stones float. Gallstones are yellowish-white or rarely black; flush stones come in a rainbow assortment of colors. Gallstones are

hard, and when you cut them in half, you will find rings of colors varying from pale yellow through black on the inside. The flush stones disintegrate when you cut them or if left sitting around.

Fans of the flush say that the stones are formed in the liver and roll into the gallbladder. The pathologist says that stones absolutely do not roll down out of the liver. Gallstones are formed in the gallbladder not in the liver. (And as a pathologist, this guy has no doubt done enough autopsies to know where the gallstones can be found). Finally, gallstones have to move



Dandelion

through a very narrow duct in order to get into the intestines. This is an extremely painful process. The simple fact that some 99% of flush stones—even very large ones—pass painlessly suggests that they are not gallstones.

Then what are they? According to the pathologist, the “stones” are simply a thick coating of Epsom salt and citrus constituents around olive oil. The GI contractions shake the olive oil into blobs surrounded by a watery blend of lemon juice and stomach fluids. The film keeps the oil and the water apart, as the two do not mix. These tough blobs look like stones and are strong enough to survive the passage through the intestines and into a strainer in the toilet bowl but they are not gallstones.

It very much looks like the unpleasant process of drinking olive oil, lemon juice and dissolved Epsom salts does not shake loose gallstones. So what should you do to prevent gallstones? I

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recommend dandelion root for a month or two if you want a simple, safe way to do home maintenance on your liver and gallbladder. Dandelion gently stimulates the liver to secrete bile, the gallbladder to contract, and the kidneys to release fluids. It is an abundant plant (unless you are a Round-Up touting, lawn monoculturist, and even then dandelion is probably still around), and will not trigger a gallbladder crisis. I would also recommend taking bitters for a while. The taste of bitter herbs before meals will stimulate digestive secretions of all kinds, from saliva to stomach acid to digestive enzymes. Herbal bitters improve how we digest our food and are always helpful except in people who have a red-tipped tongue or an active inflammatory GI condition.

And if you really want to avoid gallstones, you must eat right and exercise. I was surprised to learn that too much sugar and too little aerobic exercise are big factors in gallbladder problems. Sugar seems to lead to more cholesterol-saturated bile (a risk factor for gallstones). I was less surprised to learn that people on the heart-healthy Mediterranean diet—a diet rich in vegetables, nuts, whole grains, fish, and unsaturated oils—have much healthier gallbladders



HERBAL SEMINAR
Kathy Abascal will be teaching an herbal seminar in Seattle on May 7, 2005.
She and Dr. Eric Yarnell will cover the clinical use of herbs in autoimmune disorders as well as botanical tonic immune building. Details on the seminar are available at Minglement or visit <http://www.herbalseminars.com>.
Seminar is limited to 20 students, advance registration required.

than those on high animal fat, low fiber diets. So, my advice for a healthy liver and gallbladder is to eat lots of spring greens (including dandelion greens), vegetables, nuts, salmon, along with a moderate amount of olive oil. And use the Epsom salts for a foot soak when you get back home from your daily run.

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Among Our Piers:

Jo Ann Bardeen

Between backing and batting, bearding and betweens, bias and binding, bleeding and borders, Jo Ann Bardeen sat down with me during her busy quilt making to talk about Vashon’s own Quilters Guild, “How to Make an American Quilt,” and non-stop sewing.

Loop: When did you start quilting? Why?

Bardeen: I started making quilts after I stopped working full time over four years ago. I personally can think of few things I’d rather do than sew quilt tops. There’s always a new one that I want to make and I enjoy nothing more than being able to get the fabrics off my shelves, from the “stash,” to start a new quilt. Buying fabric is an incurable habit.

Loop: What is the Vashon Quilting Guild? Who can be a member of the Guild? How often do you meet?



Wednesday group

Bardeen: The Vashon Quilters’ Guild began in 1988. Over 60 women currently belong to the Guild which holds day time meetings on the third Tuesday of the month and night time meetings on the first Thursday. Since 1995, the quilters have produced a Quilt Show every other year, with a new one coming in May of this year. New members are always welcome! Dues are \$15 annually, with no restrictions on who can join.

Loop: Who are some current Vashon Quilting Guild members? What are they working on?

Bardeen: Quilting spans the age decades with several of the Guild’s members being in their 80’s and several being younger with children still at home. The range of expertise is incredible, with some specializing in hand quilting, some in paper-piecing, some in machine embroidery and others in applique. Sewing machines used by quilters go from a treadle, to a hand crank, to one’s very first Singer, to the very

newest computerized machines. Quilts produced range from traditional patterns to very artistic creations. There are two women on the Island who operate long arm machine quilting businesses: Nancy Weed and Susan Nebeker.

Loop: Have the quilters done any sort of quilting benefit for the community?

Bardeen: Charity projects of the Guild are many and varied. Quilts have been made as fund raising items for the Vashon Food Bank, Nativity House, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and many other charities. Many members participate in making quilts for cancer patients at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, at Children’s Hospital and for wounded soldiers returning to Madigan Army Hospital from Iraq. On two instances, the Guild held auctions at their meetings to raise funds. Once it benefited the

Red Cross following 9/11 in 2001 and recently to benefit the victims of the Tsunami in south Asia. Both events raised almost \$800.

Loop: “How to Make an American Quilt” - good movie or stinker in regards to its scenes of quilt making?

Bardeen: “How To Make An American Quilt” is indeed an endearing story and movie which depicts quilting very well. A much loved series of books is that written by Jennifer Chiaverini about the Elm Creek Quilters.

Loop: Favorite quilt-related memory?

Bardeen: One of the must entertaining Guild meetings was the one where people were asked to bring the first quilt they had made. Some very odd colors and patterns presented themselves for inspection and good laughs.

Loop: Have any guild members submitted their quilts to fairs? Did they get any awards?

Bardeen: One Guild member once had a quilt accepted for the annual show in Paducah, Kentucky. Others have submitted quilts to the King County Fair. Most members simply show them in the Vashon Quilt Show. Some don’t want theirs seen by anyone. The most interesting portion of every Guild meeting is the “Show & Tell” where members bring and



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Michael Lee’s monthly presentations on “Colorful Drought Tolerant Plantings”. Subjects and dates listed in the “News”.

show their latest work. Sharing and learning are the most important reasons to belong to the Guild.

Loop: Is there a good place to get information for a novice quilter?

Bardeen: The Saturday morning quilting shows on channel 12 and “Simply Quilts” on weekdays on HGTV and the DIY channel offer great information for beginners and long-time quilters alike.

Loop: Did you do anything to celebrate the recent National Quilting Day (March 19)?

Bardeen: The Quilters’ Anonymous Show took place at the Evergreen Fairgrounds in Monroe on National Quilting Day. I attended the event with my daughter. Other popular “field trips” among Guild members includes going to quilt stores. When someone hears of a sale at our favorite shops in Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, Tacoma, Des Moines, Seattle and other towns, there is almost always a carload or two of quilters going there for the sale. The Sewing Expo in February at the Puyallup Fairgrounds is another favorite for quilters to attend. There are also “quilting retreats.” There are several groups which annually rent houses at Ft. Flagler (near Port Townsend) and take along their sewing machines and many quilt projects to complete during that week of non-stop sewing. Of course, the retreats include friendship, laughter, sharing stories and eating great meals. It’s almost a “sweat shop” atmosphere, but all attendees agree that it’s the best week ever. There is a Vashon Island Sewing

Retreat in September which takes place at Camp Burton. Lorraine Kimmel, a founding member of the Guild, has been involved with it for more than 20 years.

Loop: Anything else you’d like to share about quilting or the Guild?

Bardeen: The 2005 Vashon Island Quilt Show is titled “Quilt Tales: Every Quilt Tells A Story”. It will be held at the Vashon Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, May 14**, 10-5 and **Sunday, May 15** from noon-5. We expect more than 150 quilts and dolls to be displayed. Some of them will be for sale. Plus, there is a “Show Store” selling things quilters have made, some finished and some not. The 2005 Allied Arts Quilt will also be there to see and with raffle tickets to purchase. Suggested donation for entry to the Show is \$3. For information about the Show, call co-chairs Jo Ann Bardeen (567-5841) or Peggy Scaramastra (567-5694). ☺☺☺



Lorraine Kimmel

THE DORSAL SPIN: An Orca Hero and Mas Ballenas Grisas

By Orca Annie Stateler, VHP
Coordinator

Meet a local “Orca Hero”: **Sunday, April 17, 2 PM** at the Vashon Theatre, Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) associate Mark Sears will discuss his work with Southern Resident orcas and show his stunning photos and video of Puget Sound marine mammals.

Mark was recently recognized as an Orca Hero in a new “Puget Sound Orcas” exhibit at the Seattle Aquarium: “Over the last two decades, Mark and his family have been key participants in protecting local orcas. His collection of whale sightings and identification photos provide the primary record of orcas moving through Puget Sound. Mark also played an important role in helping reunite a lone orca calf, Springer (A73), with her family in 2002.” Visit the News section at www.whalemuseum.org to read about other orca heroes.

When I moved to Vashon from San Juan Island in 1994, I was most fortunate to have Mark as a mentor and colleague in developing the VHP. A Puget Sound native, Mark is extremely knowledgeable about our local waters and marine life. For many years, Mark volunteered his time in a genuine labor of love to document Puget Sound whale sightings and orca births.

Like many Native people on the Northwest Coast, Odin and I believe killer whales are perceptive enough to know what is in our hearts and minds. We are frequently amazed when we witness the rapport between Mark and our orcas. The Southern Residents have been remarkably tolerant of Mark’s presence with their newborns. Keetla/Springer, a Northern Resident, readily trusted him. Mark might humbly say “pshaw,” but it seems killer whales are aware of the ally they have in him. The whales can count on the little yellow skiff to maintain a respectful distance from them and avoid invasive or unpredictable maneuvers.

Do not miss this outstanding opportunity to ask questions of a seasoned, local whale expert and learn more about the work that inspired the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) for Puget Sound whale research. Admission is only \$5.00 and proceeds benefit the VHP. Contact Orca Annie or the Vashon Theatre at 463-3232, www.vashontheater.com, for more information.

Please report local whale sightings ASAP to 463-9041. Mark and I appreciate your support.

Back to Baja: Local Indigenous people operate the whale watching pangas (skiffs) in Baja’s nursery lagoons. The captains are adept at piloting their small boats around 36-48 foot gray whale adults and 15-20 foot calves. Whale watching is carefully regulated and the skippers must have permits to approach the whales.

The day I went to visit whales in Magdalena Bay, the sky was overcast and the water rough with 3 to 4 foot swells. Mother gray whales usually control interactions in the lagoons.



Like humans, some whales are more outgoing than others. When calves are newborn, mothers steer their infants away from the pangas. The first mom and calf pair we encountered clearly indicated they were not interested in visiting. They swam away from us, keeping their distance from the boat.

My heart leapt when I saw the second pair, however. Mother and Baby both poked their heads above water, eyeballing us and tolerating our approach. Our panga driver slowed to an idle. Mom gently buoyed up Baby from beneath as they glided a few feet under the boat.

On either side of the panga, they both rolled their heads sideways, presumably to get a better look at us. Gazing into a gray whale eye at close range is quite a thrill. The plate-sized eye appears to contain the wisdom of the universe.

By this time I was chattering excitedly, using English and Spanish terms of endearment to encourage this pair to interact with us. On one pass under the panga, Mom blew a fountain of bubbles on me, soaking my rain gear. Her behavior struck us as playful and deliberate. Was it a test to see if we were good sports? The other passengers were amused and relieved, as I was the only one on board dressed to take a direct hit.

I guess we passed Mom’s test. She allowed us to touch her baby. I felt a coarse bristle on Junior’s otherwise smooth chin when I rubbed it, a mammalian reminder of what we have in common with these glorious creatures. Yes, I unabashedly spoke “calf talk” and complimented Mom on her beautiful baby. The whales did not seem to mind. They put up with us for about 30 minutes.

Gray whale calves feel like wet, unpeeled cucumbers. Adults have scratchy but aesthetically pleasing barnacle and whale lice encrustations on their heads -- best to touch them elsewhere. The barnacle patterns help researchers identify individuals, in addition to tail flukes and other markings.

Gray whale moms are fiercely protective. They are legendary for bravely fending off whalers and transient killer whales, sometimes making the ultimate sacrifice to save their babies. These moms are also tender, constantly caressing their calves with their pectoral flippers.

We thoroughly enjoyed watching our Mom and Baby “hug” each other. Mom decided it was time to leave when seven other pangas converged on her and Junior. Our skipper politely departed to give our ballenas amigables some space.

During the last century, foreign whalers hunted gray whales to the brink of extinction twice in Baja’s lagoons. Today we are privileged that these whales choose to be anywhere near humans. I am deeply grateful to the trusting Magdalena Bay Mom and Baby for being the highlight of my recent trip to Baja. I will pray for their safe journey up the West Coast this spring.

Contact Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com or 463-9041.

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Madame Toujours

Dear Madame Toujours,

I have a special secret friend. I like him a lot, and he is a wonderful, Christian man who admires me and thinks I am very pretty and special. I am very mad at my family. My mother and my sisters all said I should not have Ronnie for a friend because he is twice as old as me and he has done bad things to girls in the past. I don’t see why I can’t have Ronnie for a friend because I am twenty-two, and I am an adult now, and he is a Christian now and he told me he doesn’t do bad things to girls now that he is a Christian and I know he would never do anything bad to me because he is my friend and he is a Christian. Also, he is an artist, and he likes to take pictures of me, but that is okay because it is art and it is a special confidential secret that is just between us and it is not anybody else’s business, so I don’t see why my family won’t let me be his friend when I am his only friend, and without me he won’t have anybody who understands him. Even my social worker says I can’t be his friend, so I have not told anybody that I am still his friend, but now my social worker wants me to go to a group home because she says I am having a mental illness that is caused by stress and anxiety, but that is not because of Ronnie. Ronnie is my wonderful Christian friend. Please tell everybody that I am an adult now and Ronnie is a wonderful friend who would never do anything bad to me.

Sincerely, Delia

Chere Mlle. Delia,

It is true that the secret romance, it is always very thrilling and is making everybody feel extremely special. However, you are possibly not realizing that the whole point of having the romance with the fellow is so that you can be feeling very important when you are talking about him with all of the women that you know. If it were not for giving the female persons something to be talking about, men would be almost completely unnecessary except for occasionally repairing the automobiles—which they invented anyway, so it is mostly being their fault when the cars, they are breaking down.

Go immediately, and tell everybody everything about M. Ronnie. Possibly, you will notice that everybody is yelling at you. Possibly, you will be thinking that this is unfair. It is not. You were knowing darn well that you were doing the big silly thing. If you are not liking the yelling, you should not be doing the silly things in the first place.

Bon Chance, Mlle. Delia, and do not worry. Pretty soon everybody will be done yelling, and now you will be sitting around with the other women and feeling very grown-up and important while you eat chocolate and talk about relationships.

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Our class schedule is ready and classes are filling up fast. For a complete list stop by the store. Sign up for your favorites TODAY! The first is April 30th. Saturday, 10:00 (and then every other Saturday at 10) We will begin with SOIL. How to determine your soil type. How to revive it, rebuilt it, renew it, improve it. Bring questions. And if you want soil samples (stop by for instructions). At 11:00ish we will have a great opportunity to learn about vegetable gardening in containers. This will be watch & learn or for those you want to actually plant up a veggie pot, hands on. We will have pots, plants, soil and everything you will need to "take home" a garden. For more info please stop by! We are REALLY excited about teaching & helping you to be successful. We have planned a very wide range of practical gardening subjects and hope that you will join us.

ENJOY.... KATHY



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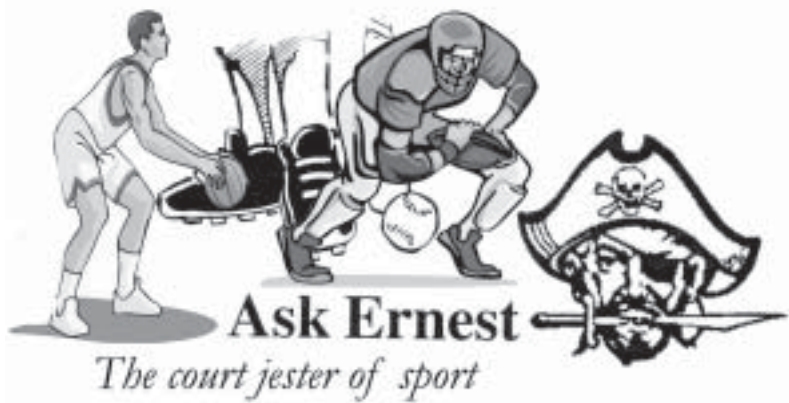
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Loop ~ Sports



Hiieee,
My name is Bevieee and my daughter had this little friend who she called Freight Train. Little but big, you know, small but muscular, and he has big black hair. Have you heard of him? I thought I overheard Pam Hizeld and Laurie Gate Mon talking about the Freight Train in the Marshmallow Section in Thriftway.

Bevieee Skeffie
Ps. My daughter rulez once again. She plays softball for Lewis and Clark and she also has her own radio show and she owns a bright Pink Hummer, calls it Bubbles. She rulez!

Dear Miss Skeffie,
Your daughter named her Hummer 'Bubbles'? That is almost as cool as Scooter Hendrix's VW Van named Gordeeeeeeep. Almost.

About the Freight Train, his name is Tyler Gateman and he placed 2nd in the NW Regionals for Freestyle Wrestling. He beat top competitors from California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. His key victory was over T. Farrington, the Orting wrestler who placed 1st at state in Freight Train's weight class. Freight Train scored on a gut wrench with 5 seconds left to win 3-1. This victory qualified T Gateman for the Nationals this summer in Fargo, North Dakota. Micah "Air Jordan" Sohl also competed in the event and won 2 matches, just missing placing in the tough event. He will improve each week and be ready for the state championships in early May.
Sincerely,
(Ode to the) American Urnie.

Dear American Urnie,
What up on the Spring Sports front at the high school? I absolutely love high school sports and am thinking of designing a show for them on ESPN. (By the way, I work for ESPN and other entertainment industries and I won an Emmy a few years back. Not a lot of people know, but I do my best to tell them all.)
Inquiring,
Craven Marting

Craven,
Congrats on the Emmy, we're all very proud, very proud, verrrrry verry proud of you here at the Loop Business Office. Keep producing brilliant events. As for high school sports, I'm a bit lost in the rainy weather. Boys Baseball beat Mt Tahoma in a thriller, Softball players are training intensely, Tracksters are tracking away, Golfers are knocking down so many Eagles that the many local Environmental groups are concerned, and Boys soccer are getting ready for a run to the state tournament. Keep updated on the high school website.
Ernie
Other Breaking News:

Sonics make the playoffs, Mayshark wears face paint to school, Ben Staadecker joins the gymnastic team at Cornell, Josh "JTho" Thorn plays hockey at Carleton, Evan and Ryan Mattingly compete at their respective National Tournaments and Wiley Volker wears Crab Claws when he clinches the Island Free Running Championship.

Oh yeah, next week Ace Shigley will cover the 2nd Prestigious Vashon Freestyle Wrestling Clinic.

∞∞∞∞

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Opening Day Soon!

Another great season of Vashon Youth Baseball & Softball is just around the corner as the kids and coaches get ready on and off the field. The 3rd annual Opening Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th at the Vashon High School Stadium and Baseball Field. This year's festivities will include lots of games and contests for young and old. Look for more info in *The Loop* as the day approaches, and check out VYBS.org for the latest updates.

The VYBS Raffle runs April 1st through the 30th, again featuring six fantastic sets of Seattle Mariners game tickets up for

grabs. Each \$5.00 ticket gives supporters six chances to win. Winners will be announced at the



Norm Matthews throws 1st pitch at last year's opening day celebration

Opening Day Ceremony. Some seats are for predetermined dates; others allow flexibility for the winner to choose the game. All winners will be contacted by phone following the drawing.

Players will be vying for prizes while raising money for VYBS. Prizes include Zoomies certificates, Theater tickets and certificates for Big 5 Sports. The overall top sellers will receive cash prizes and the team that sells the most tickets will receive a pizza party at Rock Island Pizza.

If you can't find a VYBS player please contact Cheryl Pruett at Pandora's Box or call her at 463-2200 for tickets or information.

∞∞∞∞



A Rusty Blight

Continued from page 1

motorist wraps his car around a tree on your property and walks away, you are stuck with it. Since you are not the legal owner of the car, you are not allowed to have it towed or otherwise disposed of. If you know who owns the car, you can call and ask them to remove it. Good luck with that. If you don't know who owns it, you can try to have it declared "junk," which would then give you permission to get rid of it—at your own cost, of course.

Bev Skeffington has dealt with abandoned cars in the Presbyterian Church parking lot on more than one occasion. Bev says that in her experience, such cars are usually cleaned out of any identifying information. To get rid of them she calls King County's Junk Vehicle Officer (really) to begin the process of (hopefully) having the car declared "junk." It costs \$25 to file the paperwork, and usually the county waits until they have several requests on Vashon before coming over. Says Bev, "In our experience, it hasn't been too long a wait." The whole process, which includes trying to find the owner, takes about three weeks. If the car is declared "junk," the church is free to have it towed – at their expense. In theory, the church will recover the money when the vehicle owner retrieves the car from the tow company's

impound yard. In reality, this rarely happens, as storage fees at an impound yard can quickly grow into thousands of dollars.

If the car is not declared "junk," the property owner is basically stuck with an unwanted car. Unless, of course, he risks the \$400 fine and drags it out onto the



Cars on road at 188th SW

county road in the middle of the night...

Abandoned cars on public property are the headache of the King County Sheriff's Office. Deputy McMeins is Towing Coordinator (really) for the Sheriff's office, and explained the process for so-called "police tows." When an abandoned car is reported, either through King County's hotline (206-205-0969) or by citizen complaint, the deputy on duty is supposed to put a pink tag on the car, which gives the owner 24-hour notice that his car will be impounded if it's not moved. The deputy will try to contact the owner by looking up the registration, or license plate number, or even the car's VIN. If the owner can't be found, and the car has not been

moved after 24 hours, the police are supposed to call one of the three off-Island towing companies that handle police tows. The towing company is required to catch the next boat to pick up the car. I spoke to Stan of Stan's Mountain View Towing, one of the three lucky companies that have to come to Vashon as part of their towing contract with King County. According to Stan, the turnaround time is not always that quick. He said that just last week he got a call to pick up a car that was tagged on February 2nd. Towing Coordinator Deputy McMeins did not have a theory as to what might cause such a delay, but did say that tows were only handled Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., to give the tow company enough time to come over without getting caught in rush ferry traffic.

So why do the cars have to be towed off-Island? Wouldn't it make more sense to have a local impound yard so cars could be removed from the roads quickly?



Car down embankment on SW 204th

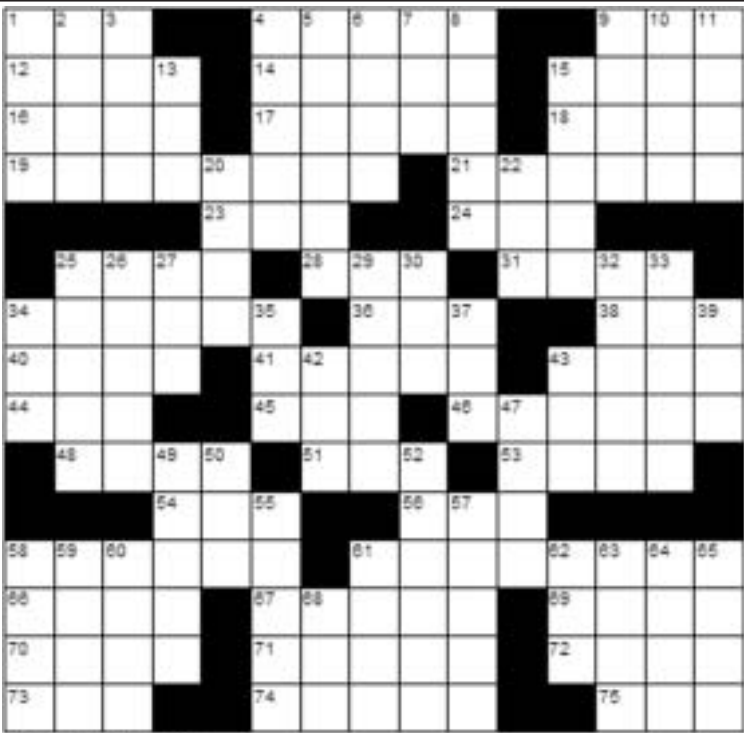
Fred Miles, owner of Miles Towing, used to run an impound yard just south of Kathy's Corner and had the contract to do police

tows. He said that not only were the regulations to operate the yard very tough, he lost money on the contract. Furthermore, an impound yard has to be located on industrially zoned land, which is a rarity on the Island. And what does a tow operator do with a car after the requisite 30 days have passed and no one has claimed it? On the mainland, the cars are auctioned (for about \$5) and towed to a wrecking yard. Here on the Island, we don't have a wrecking yard. Until about 10 years ago there was one on Cemetery Road. Although it was not on industrial property, the county allowed the operator to run it under a grandfather clause. Once he quit the wrecking business, the grandfathering came to an end, and the current owners are in the lengthy process of cleaning up the property.

Do we need or want a wrecking yard? Paul Engels of Engels Repair says it would be nice to have a local source for used parts and a place to get rid of old hulks, but that the demographics on Vashon have changed, and people here don't really fix old cars anymore. "It's not like at Northwest Wrecking on a Saturday," he said. "They have big crowds."

Interesting. We recycle our micro-brewery beer bottles, but not our cars. We want to protect the Island's pristine beauty and clean water, but don't have a place where old cars can be safely stored and disposed of. What an environmental irony.

00000



Across

- 1. Feign
- 4. Talk
- 9. Throw
- 12. Disease
- 14. Curl
- 15. Ecological communities
- 16. Convexity
- 17. South American animal
- 18. Maintain
- 19. Slaughterhouse
- 21. Dry skin need
- 23. Wood chopper
- 24. Test
- 25. Not sweet

Down

- 10. Brand of sandwich cookie
- 11. Capital of Switzerland
- 13. Toddler
- 15. Mythical diety
- 20. Tropical edible root
- 22. Globe
- 25. Extra
- 26. Finned mammal
- 27. Alien's spaceship
- 29. Separate
- 30. Constrictor snake
- 32. Opp. of chronic
- 33. Type of communication
- 34. Less than two
- 35. River (Spanish)
- 37. Frozen water
- 39. Olden
- 42. Sandwich
- 43. That man

- 28. Swab
- 31. Imp
- 34. Choose (2 wds.)
- 36. Luau dish
- 38. Chief executive officer
- 40. World organization
- 41. Abraham's son
- 43. Outer shell
- 44. Bard's before
- 45. Possessive pronoun
- 46. Changed
- 48. Goofs
- 51. British thermal unit
- 53. Charge card
- 54. Airport abbr.
- 56. Set

- 58. Austere
- 61. Military equipment
- 66. Tel __
- 67. Israel's former name
- 69. Opera solo
- 70. Track
- 71. Movie award
- 72. Heel of hand
- 73. Deer relative
- 74. Fanatical
- 75. Visualize

- 47. Information
- 49. Put a rope through a hole
- 50. Short-term memory
- 52. Ruckus
- 55. Green skinned pear
- 57. Shade
- 58. Discount
- 59. Presidents office
- 60. Bridge
- 61. Account (abbr.)
- 62. Traveler's aid
- 63. Time periods
- 64. Large African river
- 65. Break in
- 68. American sign language

Solution on Page 20

Garden Design
by
Peter Ray
~ Consultation
~ Installation
567-4542
pgr42@worldnet.att.net

Lopy Laffs

A monk, a priest, and a nun die and go to heaven. They are told that they each are allowed to ask God one question.

The monk asks God, “Will your heavenly kingdom prevail on earth?” and God answers, “Yes, it will, in the fullness of time.”

The priest asks, “Will women ever be ordained priests?” and God says, “Yes, that, too, shall come to pass.”

The nun asks, “And will a woman ever become Pope?” and God says, “Oh, yes.

But not while I’m God.”

The Island ecologist in charge of wetlands is swamped with work.

A KC cop pulls a guy over for weaving across the highway north of town. He walks up to the driver’s window and asks, “You drinkin’?” The driver said, “Well that depends - You buyin’?”

OneLiners

(more or less)

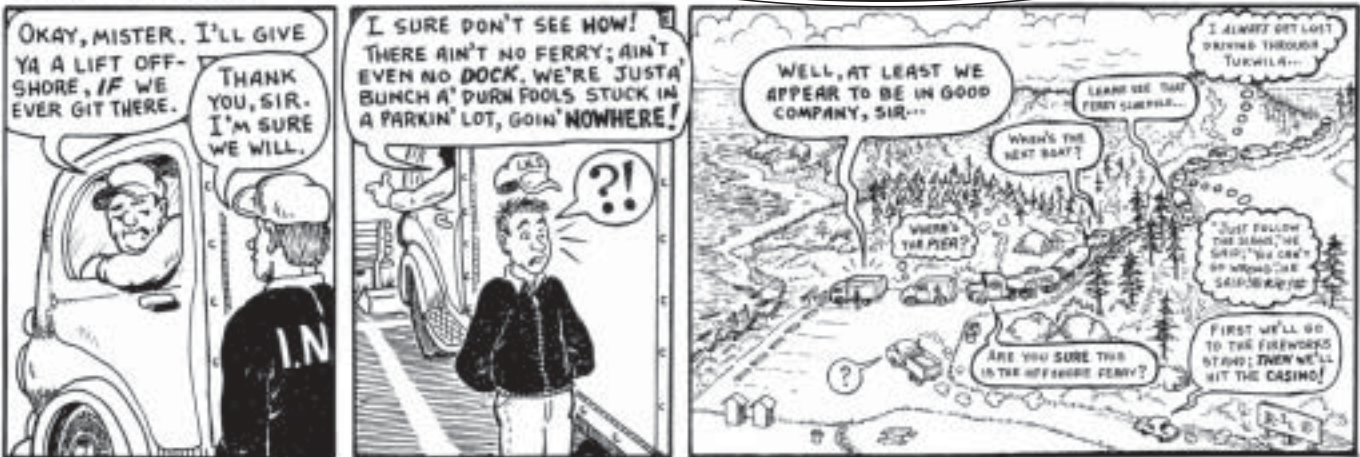
Don’t be sexist - broads hate that
Body by Nautilus; brain by Mattel
If I were homeless, I’d be home right now.
I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol
Taxation WITH representation isn’t so hot, either!
The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard
My intuition nearly makes up for my lack of good judgment
The earth is like a tiny grain of sand, only much, much heavier.
It’s hard to make a comeback when you haven’t been anywhere.
If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
The more we disagree, the more chance there is that at least one of us is right.
The trouble with the guy who talks too fast is that he often says something he hasn’t thought of yet.

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn’t have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn’t have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

“It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt” — Mark Twain



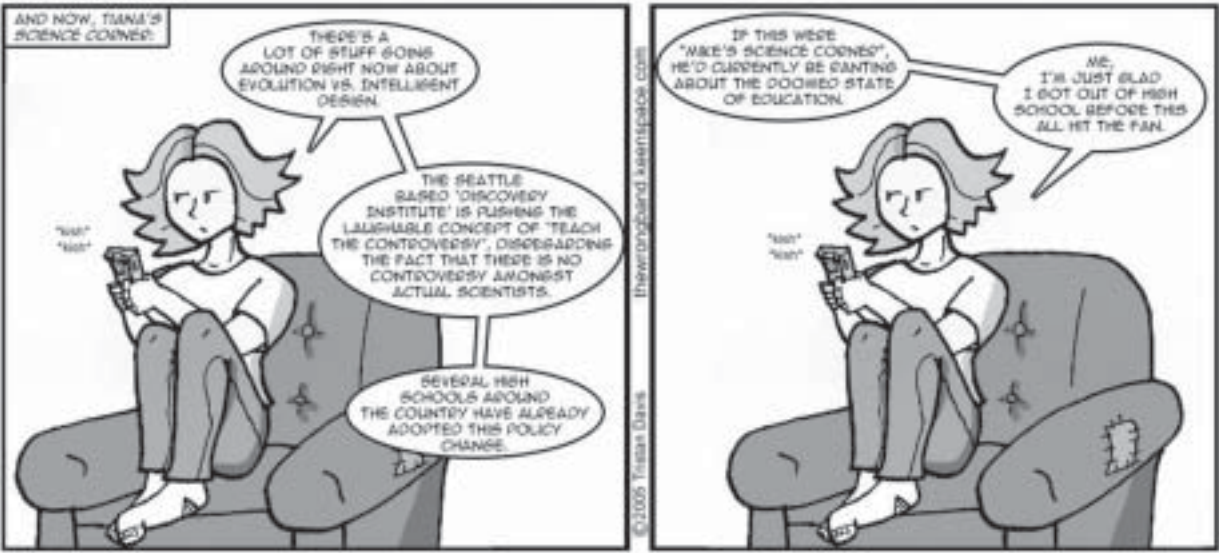
OFFSHORE



When I was younger I hated going to weddings ... it seemed that all of my aunts and the grandmotherly types used to come up to me, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, ‘You’re next.’ They stopped that shit after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

NOT ALL THERE

by Tristan Davis



LOGJAM



VASHON TSUNAMI RELIEF

Continued from page 9

Baltimore, MD-based Catholic Relief Services, an international relief and development agency providing emergency services in Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia and Thailand and \$500 was sent to OXFAM International, the Oxford, England-based relief agency also providing emergency support throughout Southeast Asia.

Jim DeHarpporte, western regional director for Catholic Relief Services, spent more than twenty years stationed in Southeast Asia while a program director for the NGO. Now living in San Diego, DeHarpporte was sent back to Sri Lanka and India in the days immediately following the tsunami to assist in emergency needs assessments, DeHarpporte saw firsthand the devastation created by the

disaster and sent a very personal thank-you note this past week to the "...Vashon Islanders who helped islanders a world away."

Calling the coast of Sumatra and the city of Banda Aceh "obliterated," DeHarpporte went on to say "...but thanks to people like you, it is not the end after all. We have seen survivors picking up the pieces of their lives and starting the long process of rebuilding their homes and their lives. With amazing courage, hope and determination we have seen neighbors who have lost nearly everything themselves helping each other. The road will be a long one but the work has begun and it is moving forward much better than expected thanks to your support. We are deeply grateful to you and all those who are making this possible."



Planet Waves
by Eric Francis <http://www.PlanetWaves.net>



The life we live is based on exchange. In the biological realm, a lot of oxygen molecules get passed around. On the way to making our lives better in the human realm, we must give up what we don't want in exchange for what we do. Often it's not so clear cut as a positive and a negative, but at the moment, there are things that subtract from your world and there are things that add to it. With a little discernment and honesty, you should have little difficulty telling which is which. The more of what you don't want that you give up, the more of what you do want that you will have room for, and be willing to receive. Read your extended birthday report at PlanetWavesWeekly.com

Aries (March 20-April 19)

Friday's eclipse of the Sun in your birth sign is sure to be sending waves of change through your life and those of people close to you. If you are inclined to wonder what it all means, look for a simple theme or message. You might look at it this way. Events and developments are conspiring to teach you one thing only: to notice what is important. It is true that in this world, often the least meaningful things are accorded the most time, energy and devotion. Once you know what they are, that is what to emphasize. Start today; say what you need to say, and do what you need to do.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)

It's too often true that we get so caught up in the small details that we lose sight of the larger context of our lives. I suggest you look for the largest patterns you can find, and then look specifically for where you are breaking free of them. There may be many examples, or there may be one good example. In the most significant ways, this is a time in your life when you can interrupt the perfect continuity of deeply imperfect situations. The actions and choices you make today will influence you in this moment, but their deeper gift is to redirect the shape and course of your life.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)

You stand at what T.S. Eliot called the still point of the turning world. You have at this moment what may be described as the perfect perspective, undisturbed by your own often fleeting sense of movement and change. Look carefully at the world around you. Do the psychic equivalent of mapping out the territory with a few quick sketches, or taking photos in every direction. More than anything, look and feel. You will see exactly where you have influence and where you don't. The mystery of life provides opportunity for many dramas. Today, trade them for clarity and the freedom to make authentic decisions.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

An opening is likely to appear, and it may give you the feeling that it was always there. Perhaps it was and all you needed to do was get everything that blocked it out of the way. Or maybe something is actually changing, whether it be for you, for the state of the world, or both. The only thing that matters is that you make your move, and do it with a mixture of 51% determination and 51% love. What we might call the Fates are on your side, and many factors that are larger than you are working on your behalf. Please don't ask too many questions. What seems like fate in the cosmic realm translates into faith in the human realm.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)

Now is the time to reach past all your old ideas of safety, familiarity, and most important, who you thought you were. You're about to make a discovery about yourself, and the only thing that can possibly get in the way is clinging to the past as if it really mattered. By the past, I mean the entire collection of notions and self-images, but also feelings of self-judgment and fear that you may have lived with for a long time. You may have noticed that you've reached certain limits — and to go past them, you're going to need to travel with far lighter, more versatile ideas about what is possible, and what it means to be alive.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

There appears to be some kind of commitment you're involved with making. From the look of things, you are in unfamiliar territory, and your sense of having no experience may feel daunting. At the same time, there's no denying that you're here, that you've arrived at a certain point in your life that seems, if not fated, deeply meaningful. The circumstances are not as ominous as they may seem — all you need to remember is that you must make this decision on your own. You now know everything you need to know. The specifics are unlikely to change. The only change that comes now will be based on your personal choice.

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Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)

A particular partnership, or perhaps a vast section of your life, seems to be under the influence of forces that have nothing to do with you. What you may soon see is the surprisingly large extent to which you have power in this situation. But you may only notice that after you go through the long list of factors that are, in truth, genuinely neutral. Your insistence that they have power over you has done nothing but deny the ways you are creating the situation, and can continue to do so in ways that work well for everyone involved.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

Certain events or circumstances that seem to have taken forever to develop are about to start moving quickly and by all indications in unexpected directions. They do not in fact have a life of their own; much is yet to be determined. How you handle yourself means a lot now, and the best you can offer is your ability to pay attention from moment to moment. The best formula I have found for times such as this is a statement from A Course in Miracles: Every decision you make stems from what you think you are. So begin with the core — your sense of self — and how to respond will become obvious enough.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)

How big of a risk are you willing to take? Consider the kinds of chances you've taken in the past, and decide whether the current moment calls for more courage, or less. You're typically rather impetuous, and are now responding to nothing other than actual creative inspiration. Yet sane risks are often based on assessments of how much we have to lose, and how much we have to gain. So you might want to work that out for a little while, and reassure yourself that all the necessary balances and safety factors are correct before making any choices that will affect many people for quite a long time.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Let's consider for a moment the idea "ready". There are many layers to this concept — and usually, in the end, it comes down to how we feel. It is an emotional state, and it happens to be rather rare to find. Most of the time we convince ourselves we are not ready, only to be pushed by circumstances into certain rather large decisions — then we find out that we were in fact ready even though we missed this fact entirely. I am referring to a specific domestic, personal or emotional situation that has reached its moment of truth. The chances are, all you need to do is summon a little courage.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

If you're working on developing any particular idea, this is the one. If you're an idea person and have a whole notebook full of them, this is the notebook. If you're in a moment of enormous change, these are the developments that are shaping your mind in the ways you have been waiting for. You have to admit that there are some highly unusual circumstances afoot, though the most vital quality they have to offer you is a community of individuals who are ready to take responsibility for their own destiny. There is no more powerful force in the world.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

If limitations could actually stop progress, nothing would have happened in all of human history. Like many who have made up their minds to be someone, to do something, or to fulfill their longing for love, you are keenly aware that the world is not shaped in ways that are perfect for meeting the deep needs of human nature. But you have at least two factors going for you. One is flexibility. The other is that you've discovered you have as much to offer the world as you thought it had to offer you. Now all you need to do is keep your sense of humor, and you are unstoppable.

www

Happy Birthday, Aries!

Eric Francis has more to say at
<http://www.PlanetWaves.net>.

Loop Arts



Ancient Future Plays Heron

Mark your calendars for this special musical event! Ancient Future, the Northern California group that coined the term world fusion in 1978, will bring their ‘planet passion’ to Blue Heron, Saturday, April 16, at 8 pm. Combining contemporary jazz and rock with rhythms of Arabic dance, Ancient Future is known for their commitment to excellence in blending exciting rhythms and exotic sounds from around the globe. Island belly dancers are encouraged to attend and welcome to dance.

The Blue Heron show will feature: award winning guitarist, Matthew Montfort; Arabic violin virtuoso, Georges Lammam; keyboard player, sitarist, Doug McKeehan; and Arabic percussionist, Salah Takesh. Tickets are available now at Heron’s Nest and Blue Heron, \$11/\$14. Call 463-5131 to reserve.

Jen Ambrose at Café Luna

Jen Ambrose will be performing at Cafe Luna on **Friday, April 15** from 7:30 - 10pm. This Southern Oregon singer-songwriter brings a diverse blend of original folk, blues and world music, that weaves together penetrating lyrics and a unique guitar style. Her vocal versatility expresses unabashed soulfulness and passion that dives into the heart of the listener. Jen performs in a variety of settings throughout the Northwest and has been an opening act for such musicians as Michael Franti & Spearhead and folk/rock legend Donovan. Her first, self-produced CD - “Nectar Of Your Dreams”— is available through Imaginary Records at: www.imaginaryrecords.com



More Music at Luna

“The House of Hunab Ku” will be performing at the Cafe Luna Friday, April 8th at 7:30 pm. The group consists of Wayo Hogan on guitar and vocals, Ric Jackson on keyboards and Tom Brighton on drums. They are all very talented and interesting composers and musicians. This is a concert that is enjoyable to listen to, dance to and even sing along with.



Drama Dock’s Sound of Music

Can you hear it? The music? It’s as if the hills are alive with the sound of it. Wait, what’s that? The hills ARE alive with the sound of music as Drama Dock is presenting the world famous Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, “The Sound of Music” to Vashon Island.

Families will delight in the production because, for one thing, the performances ARE a family affair. More than half of the cast is under the age of 18. On top of that, fathers are performing with daughters, mothers are performing with sons, and, in one instance, a husband and wife and their two daughters are performing together. What better showcase for these talents than “The Sound of Music,” a show known the world over for its classic tunes like “Do-Re-Mi” and “Edelweiss?”

The show, produced by Nancy Bachant and directed by Elizabeth Anthony, tells a timeless story. It is the heart-warming tale of the Von Trapp family during World War II. Maria, a postulant whose call to holy orders is in question, comes from her convent to be a governess to Captain Von Trapp’s seven children. There is, of course, singing, and swooning love, and finally a daring escape from the Nazis. Drama Dock has confidence that it’ll be a marvelous show for the whole family.

The cast features some of Vashon’s finest thespians. Julea Gardener is Maria. Chris Ott is Captain Von Trapp. Elizabeth Nye is Mother Abbess. The children are played by Justine Freese, Calen Winn, Eileen Gilmour, Ryan Crotty, Anna Rose, Kalie Heffernan, and Kate Atwell.

Behind the scenes there are talents as well. Kirsten Bachant is stage managing, Fran Gordon is doing lights, sound is being done by Jeff Woollen, the set designer is Craig Hanson and costume design is by Janis McWhirter (which is no small feat with over 100 costumes in the show).

The show, sponsored in part by the Vashon-Maury Island Parks & Recreation Department, takes place **April 15, 16, 22, 24, 29, and 30** at 8 p.m., as well as **April 17, 24, and May 1** at 2 p.m. at the Vashon High School Theatre. Tickets for the show are \$10 for children 12 and under, \$12 for

students and seniors, and \$15 for general admission. They can be purchased at the **Vashon Bookshop** or at **Books By The Way**.

When the performance is over your family will undoubtedly not want to say to the wonderful evening, “So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu, adieu, adieu, to yieu and yieu and yieu.” ☺☺☺☺

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Million Dollar Baby

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Sea Inside

PG-13

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www.vashontheater.com for times

Guess Who

PG-13

Friday 4/8 - Thursday 4/14
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Upside of Anger **R** The Ring 2 **PG-13**

Friday 4/15 - Thursday 4/21
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Full Calendar Online
<http://www.vashontheater.com>

Vashon Bookshop

Gentleman perusing the Bookshop’s window calendar.....



“Hm...Thursday, April 7th, 7am The Poetry Salon
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A Fourth-Grader’s Perspective: Youth Chorus Concert Features Snow White and More

By Emma Hennessey, Vashon Island Youth Chorus

When I was a little girl, my mom would sing me to sleep. Her voice was so soothing. I decided then when I grow up, I want to be just like her. My mom still sings, and I love to sing and dance, too. I’ve been to many of her concerts. Now it’s my turn.

I joined the Vashon Island Youth Chorus when I first came to Vashon three years ago. I was kind of scared that first day, but since then I have found that the songs are thrilling and beautiful, and you clap along. There is dancing, jokes, and we have lots of fun.



Marita Ericksen is the Director of the Youth Chorus, and you can tell she knows her stuff! She has been singing and teaching kids for a long time, and it shows. Randy Bruce is great at music, too, and he is the assistant. Diana Ammon is the Parent Coordinator, and she is lots of fun.

The Youth Chorus Spring Concert is coming up on **Sunday, April 24**, at 7 p.m. at McMurray Middle School. We are going to be singing some great songs this time, including “Mississippi Mud”, “You Raise Me Up”, and “Turn the Beat Around.” We also are doing a special production of “Snow White”, including great songs. Colette

Ammon will be Snow White. We will have some fun guest singers who aren’t kids, including Paul Robb as the Prince, Lauri Hennessey as the evil Queen, many of our parents, and all of our siblings playing forest animals, trees and other stuff.

We also are going to have some guest instrumentalists at the concert, including Kathy Bonner on cello.

The members of the Youth Chorus are Zoe Clark, Claire Green, Shelby Gale, Emma and Lilly Hennessey, Emma and Sarah Zimmerman, Colette Ammon, Aileen Fitzgerald, Daisy Sullivan, Dylan Grace-Wells, Molly Dillon, Clara Summers, Alesha Rosford, and Garret DuFresne. We have room for more members -- anyone who loves to sing is welcome!

As for me, I will be playing the magic mirror in the Snow White production. I have been studying the words, and trying to learn to sing the songs. I can’t wait to do it, especially since so many of our brothers and sisters are going to be involved. My dad is even going to be a tree!

But mostly, I just like singing every time. I love dancing, and love seeing the people in the audience while they watch us. I know I want to be a singer someday.

And every time I sing, it’s still exciting. The lights flash on, and I see my mom looking at me, as I think, “Mommy, I’m just like you!”

*Emma Hennessey is nine years old, and is a member of the Vashon Island Youth Chorus. The concert is on **Sunday, April 24th**, at 7 p.m., at McMurray. Tickets are \$5.00 a person or \$15.00 per family, with kids six and under free. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, contact Diana Ammon at 463-5285.* ☐☐☐☐

Short and Sweet

We’ve been busy getting ready to be busy! Below is the Short & Sweet schedule for the next few months. More dates will be added soon, and our schedule is updated regularly on our website (which is growing by leaps and...er, well...fits and starts) at <http://www.shortandsweetmusic.com/calendar.htm>

Also in our music news: Robyn is one of six finalists in the Suwannee Springfest Music Festival songwriting contest in Florida later this month. <http://www.magmusic.com/songcontest.htm>

We’re going March 24 for the competition and then to enjoy a little southern sunshine (we hope) and the rest of the festival (we’ll get to hear Tony Rice, Peter Rowan, Rodney Crowell, Guy Clark, Darol Anger, Bela Fleck and more!).

Here’s our spring schedule as of March 19, 2005:

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. — Cafe Luna, Vashon

Friday, April 29, 6:00 p.m. — C&P Coffee, West Seattle

Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. — Pegasus Coffeehouse, Bainbridge Island

Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m. — Green Fire Bookshop, Tucson, Arizona

Saturday, May 21, 8:30 p.m. — Mama Java’s Coffeehouse, Phoenix, Arizona

Sunday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. — Javalina’s (Open Stage Featured Performer), Tucson, Arizona

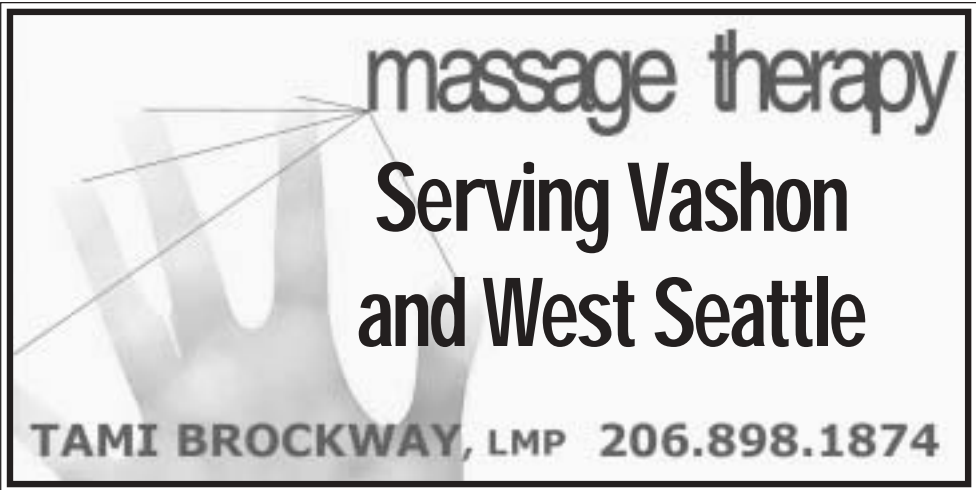
Friday, May 27, 8:30 p.m. — Fiddler’s Dream, Phoenix, Arizona

Saturday, June 11, 7:30 p.m. — Patty Griffin Night: Robyn, Steve, and Steve’s daughter Gen, celebrate Patty Griffin with a night dedicated to her tunes - if you don’t know this songwriter you should; if you do, come and enjoy our interpretations of her gems at Cafe Luna on Vashon.

Friday, June 17, 8:00 p.m. — Brick Coffeehouse Café, Marysville, California

Saturday, June 18 (time TBA) — Yuba Sutter Regional Arts Council, Marysville, California

Thursday, September 1, 7:30 p.m., joined by Paul Elliott! — Ober Park Summer Concert Series, Vashon



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Nashville Duo Plays Blue Heron

Before making any judgment about what you think you know about country music, come and hear Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart at the Blue Heron, **Saturday, April 30**, 8 pm. Straight out of Nashville, these two put more miles on their guitars than most rock bands dream of. Penned ‘alt-country’ by most reviewers, by any categorization, they can sing and play with the best of them...and have. Stacey’s Grammy-award winning brother heard her singing in the kitchen one day and convinced her to come out of the musical closet and accompany him on a world tour. That was more than a decade ago. Before long Stacey was doing her own thing in Nashville, when her future musical and life partner, Mark Stuart showed up at an open mike one night. They’ve been together ever since. In addition to his more recent gig with Stacey, Mark has toured with Freddy Fender and Steve Earle’s band.

The duo released their first CD together, “Never Gonna Let You Go,” in 2002, and another is slated for release any day now. A



delightful collaboration of original tunes, their music will please the most cynical alt country listener out there. Their extensive collective song catalogs offer depth and breadth with something for every ear. Between Stacey’s sweet, unfettered voice, Mark’s great harmonies and fine guitar work from both, they put on quite a show. Mark will also be playing a few tunes on the Heron’s Kawai grand piano.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to see these two in the intimate setting of the Blue Heron. Tickets are \$10 for VAA members, seniors and students/\$13 general admission. Seating is limited, call to reserve, 463-5131.

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