

In This Issue: Beans Without Wind; Rules for Summer People; Best Computers in the World, Hawthorn for your Heart; Mom Memories; Top Seven Moments in High School Sports, and more!



Would listening to each other be so bad? Page 8



Who IS this guy? He yam what he yam. Page 16



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THE VASHON LOOP

Vol. 3, # 11

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

May 24, 2006

Painting the Town Red

The rumors are true. Troy Kindred and Marie Browne have bought Glendale Realty, and will soon be opening it as a Keller Williams office. Owner Bradd Bever will stay on with the business, and says he is excited about the venture. "I'm impressed by the Keller Williams business model," said Bever. "It exemplifies the same principles and values that have been inherent at Glendale for the last 36 years." He went on to add, "Keller Williams is the most creative and innovative real estate company that I know of or have ever heard of. I'm looking forward to my continued association with the company."

Kindred and Browne are both long-time Islanders with strong ties to the community and boundless enthusiasm. "Our real estate business has really taken off this last year," said Browne. "When Bradd called us about selling his business, it seemed downright providential."

"We'll be doing an extensive facelift on the building," said Kindred, "and we'll be holding a grand opening party open to the entire community on Saturday, July 1. Naturally, my band Loose Change will be playing. I never miss a chance to play a gig!"

Pat McCarthy Speaks to Chamber about "The Nordstrom Way"

By Lauri Hennessey

We all have our customer service horror stories. Crabby waiters. Angry sales clerks. People not getting back to us. But we also have the good stories. The person who goes above and beyond to serve a customer. The person who uses the personal touch, who remembers your name, or makes you feel welcome.

With that awareness, the Vashon Island Chamber of Commerce is excited to have one of the leading voices in the customer service world come and give up close and personal training for local businesses.

On **Thursday, May 25**, Islanders will have the chance to hear Pat

See Chamber Speaker on page 4



Photo by Andrew James

Mom Really Was Ten Feet Tall

Janet McAlpine, as Julia Ward Howe, in costume and on stilts, reads Howe's original Mother's Day Declaration at the Mother's Day celebration at Ober Park on Sunday, May 14. A few hundred Islanders attended the mom- and child-friendly event.



VFW Color Guard steps off the 2005 Festival Parade. Left to right: Rick Tuel, Burdell Hollis (behind flag), John Burke, and Phil Mahurin. Photo by Mary Litchfield Tuel.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

The annual Memorial Day remembrance ceremonies will be held at the Vashon Cemetery at 11 a.m. and at the Vashon Community Care Center at 3 p.m. on **Monday, May 29**. The event is sponsored and organized by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

There will be an honor guard of veterans and Boy Scouts and representatives from many Island organizations at the Cemetery event. Olde John Croan will be the emcee, and The Judd Creek Gospel Choir will provide music with the singing of hymns.

Threshold Choir and Total Experience Choir sing for Remembrance Gathering on Sunday, May 28. Story on page 5



Horse mussel shell. One of many treasures to be found at low tide.

Celebrate Low Tide at Point Robinson

By Rayna Holtz

Come to Pt. Robinson this **Saturday, May 27**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and bring your whole family. The first annual Low Tide Celebration will bring beach naturalists, bird experts, artists, a geologist, and many others to show us the wonders of the shoreline that surrounds us. And there will even be food at the Boy Scouts' booth!

Planners from six organizations have been preparing for this party for eight months, and linking up with other groups, such as the fourth grade students of Chautauqua School. These students are presently putting the finishing touches on one of the most decorative features planned for the occasion: a mural of the water birds of Vashon. Thanks to the Keepers of Pt. Robinson, their art will be displayed inside the lighthouse, where it can be enjoyed both by people wandering through and by those who are waiting for Captain Joe Wubbold to take them on a tour of the old light.

Meanwhile, outside there will be a touch tank at the People for Puget Sound booth, where grandparents and children can peer into the homes of hermit crabs, pat a mossy chiton, or feel the softness of an anemone. There will be games, and displays, and free beach critter guides. Beach walks will depart on the half hour from the People for Puget Sound Booth, and the minus three tide will be low at 11:43 a.m. Bird walks will depart at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. from the Audubon booth in quest of Kingfishers, swallows, and Pigeon Guillemots. For the best look at birds, come very early, at 7:30 a.m., and meet Master Birder Sue Trevathan in the upper lot (pre-register at 463-1484).

See Low Tide Fest on page 7

Get in The Loop

Help Wanted

Red Cross Shelter and Food Volunteer Staff

STARTING PAY:
The gratitude of your 10,000 Island neighbors

UPSIDE POTENTIAL:
The satisfaction of helping your community survive a devastating crisis

STARTING DATE:
Sign up immediately. Training available.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to fit into an existing team of high energy, totally passionate volunteers.
- Calm demeanor in crises
- Methodical approach to following procedures
- Friendly and helpful attitude

ARE YOU INTERESTED?
Call Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition to set up an interview
Ask for Mary at **463-3545** or
Kate at **463-5117**

VashonBePrepared
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Clayton Williams Named Festival Grand Marshall

The Vashon Island Chamber of Commerce has announced its selection for Grand Marshal of the 2006 Strawberry Festival (**July 7 - 9**). Longtime Islander Clayton Williams will be honored this year. Williams was nominated by his son, Dennis Williams.

In his nomination letter, Williams called his father “an individual who exemplifies what it means to be a good citizen and contributing member of our community”.

Clayton Williams was born and raised on Vashon, and his family has been here for five generations. He ran Williams Heating, and has been a member of the Kiwanis, Sportsman, Country, and Quartermaster Yacht Clubs. He was a volunteer firefighter, a Fire Commissioner, and a youth baseball coach. He is now a member of the Granny’s Attic Board, a member of the Senior Center Board, and volunteers each week at Granny’s Attic.

“He is a person who takes time out of his day to listen to others, and is known for helping others,” Williams wrote in his letter.

The Grand Marshal Activities are sponsored by Joyce Olson, CPA. For more info, go to: www.vashonchamber.com.

Sign Up for Your Festival Booth Now!

The Vashon Maury Island Chamber of Commerce and the Strawberry Festival Committee 2006 invite local artists to display their creations at Ober Park during the 2006 Strawberry Festival (July 7th through July 9th).

Art vendors include visual artists, potters, photographers, glass craftsmen, woodworkers, candle makers, soap makers, jewelers, folk artists and more.

The Strawberry Festival provides a charming and exciting environment in which to celebrate, shop and explore. The local arts presence at the festival greatly enhances the visitors’ time, and is a continuing benefit to residents. Ober Park presents outstanding artists, musicians and other arts resources to the community for its enjoyment and entertainment. Last year over 30 Vashon Island artists and craftspeople featured their work.

There will be a variety of live music and entertainment. Dancing is encouraged. To secure your spot, local artists may pick up an application at the Vashon-Maury Island Chamber of Commerce, and then send to P.O. Box 1035, Vashon, WA 98070 or fax: 206-463-7590.

Booths are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Saturday Flea Market at the Eagles

The Vashon Eagles are having a Flea Market fundraiser on alternating Saturdays all summer. The club grounds at 18134 Vashon Hwy SW are a great place to buy or sell crafts, collectibles and household items. The food concession is serving chili dogs. The next sale is **Saturday May 27** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendor check-in is at 9 a.m. There are 10' X 10' spaces still available for \$20.00.

The Eagles are also hosting BINGO **on Sunday May 28** at 3 p.m. Other regular events are Friday night dinners, Sunday morning brunch and Blackjack. If you’re not a member, the Eagles would like to invite you to take advantage of our membership fee of \$25.00 which will last through the end of June.

Questions about any of these events or the club in general are happily answered at 463-5477 or by any of the members you know.

“Current Events” Meets at Senior Center

We’d like to hear about your experiences, thoughts or opinions on current events. Come and listen to what others have to say in an informal setting at the Senior Center, 1-3 p.m., **Thursday, May 25**. Bring your own topics or just go along with the group. Free, open to all ages, Gary Knutson, facilitator.

Seniors “Keep Fit” at Ober Park

A new “enhanced fitness” series for senior men and women starts **June 5** at 7:45 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. at Ober Park on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, costing \$31 for 15 sessions or free to members of Group Health.

It’s exercise for an hour in the slow lane, taught by a professional trainer, Edward Knightly. Call the Senior Center at 463-5173 for more information or drop by to register.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people who avoided me just didn’t like me.

Get Your Derrière to the School Board Meeting Tomorrow Night

(But Only If You Care About The Kids)

You have an opportunity to offer your opinion to your School Board members on the proposed Gifted and Talented Program, which will be a topic of discussion at the School Board Meeting, **Thursday May 25**, at 7:00 p.m., in the Vashon High School Library.

“There was a great turnout at the last School Board meeting of people concerned about the co-curricular school district budget, which includes sports, debate, and various other programs. Let’s see an equal number of people at this meeting to advocate for our kids!” said Susan Dufresne, Chautauqua parent rep on the Gifted and Talented Committee.

DOIT Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting of Development of Island Teens (DOIT) will take place at 6 p.m. on **Thursday, June 1** at the Sunrise Ridge Conference Room at the Voice of Vashon building. Youth and interested adults are invited. Development of Island Teens (DOIT) is a catalyst that supports and develops unique potential and contributions of Vashon Island youth through funding of activities by and for youth, educating the community about youth empowerment, and advocating on behalf of youth. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities and directions are available by calling Stephen Silha at 567-4363.

It’s Official: Dixon for Senate

Five members of the Vashon Maury Island Green Party attended the spring convention of the Green Party of Washington on Saturday, May 13th. By a near unanimous vote, long time black community activist Aaron Dixon was nominated the Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Aaron Dixon thanked the convention for their support, and pledged to wage a historic campaign that will help build the Green Party, and the movements that it represents: peace, social justice, real democracy, and ecological sustainability.


For information on the campaign, go to www.aarondixon.org.

Monthly Gathering on Grief and Loss Tonight

Tonight’s topic will be about the physical effects of grief and will include discussion and methods for self-healing. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. The group is led by Rondi Lightmark, M.A. Call 463-0831 or email lightmark@copper.net for location and information.

Find A Job (or Look for One) Tomorrow Morning

JobFind will meet at the Vashon Library from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on **Thursday May 25** to work with any adults who are seeking employment assistance, including those who are currently working but are considering a career change. This is a VYFS program geared for adults that offers assistance with job leads, interview or resume preparation, and other job search necessities. Vashon jobseekers are welcome to attend informal Thursday morning meetings at the library. There is no charge and no appointment is necessary. Library meetings are currently planned for the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. For more information call VYFS at 463-5511.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next issue of *The Loop* is:
Friday, June 2

NEW! Wet Whiskers

Grooming Salon

Professionally Trained
Certified Groomer
Conveniently located inside
Pandora's Box
17321 Vashon Hwy SW
Call today for an appointment!
Currently available days:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
& every other Saturday
(206) 463-2200



Adopt-A-Cat Day

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will host an Adopt-A-Cat Day **Saturday, June 3**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and **Sunday, June 4**, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Pandora’s Box. If you’d like to meet the cats awaiting adoption before the June dates please either email Vipp at cats@vipp.org or call 463-1979 to schedule a time that’s convenient with your schedule.

2007 VIPP Calendar

Be part of Vashon Island Pet Protectors 2007 Pet Calendar and make your pet a star. All are welcome — cats, dogs, pigs, goats! Don’t delay! Photos must be received by July 15th! For more information please call Kathy 463-9203.



Tigger

Featured VIPP Cats Available for Adoption

Tigger, a 2-year-old spayed female, and Boo, a 2-year-old neutered male, have lived together all their lives, and would like to stay together. They are both affectionate and loving. Tigger is “big and beautiful” in size and spirit. She needs a home where she can romp! Boo is a petite and gentle cat with a quiet spirit. He would love nothing more than to have a cozy place to nap and a person to snuggle up with. He needs a home that has a sense of calm and peace. These two sweeties have lived with dogs and other cats, and both can go inside and out, tho’ Boo prefers to be inside most of the time.



Boo

The Vashon Loop

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Troy and Marie Borrow Money

Actually, we didn't borrow any money, but it made for a snappy title. We did, however, talk to a mortgage broker about the subject of borrowing money. Norm Maser of Acceptance Mortgage has 25 years of experience in real estate investment and mortgage finance. As Norm says, "I am passionate about helping homebuyers and owners understand and assess their own unique situations, and the choices available." Norm has developed his own services and customer processes, which he says are intended to provide homebuyers with honest and accurate information necessary for making smart borrowing decisions, and with professional service and integrity in originating and closing transaction. He can be reached at 206-579-0159.



Troy: Norm, you're a mortgage broker. A lot of people don't understand exactly what you do. How do you explain it to the average person?

Norm: You're right— there are a lot of misconceptions about the role of a mortgage broker in the world of lending. The best way to explain it is to think of me as a retail source for loans. If you go to a bank to borrow money, your only options are the various loans (we call them "loan products") offered by that bank, which may or may not work for you. If you go to a mortgage broker for a loan, your options expand significantly, because mortgage brokers work with hundreds of lenders.

Marie: It's like shopping for a purse. If I know I want a Coach purse, I just go straight to the Coach store. If I'm not sure what brand of purse I want, I go to Nordstrom for a full selection.

Troy: I sense a shopping spree coming on.

Norm: I'll stay clear of that topic. But yes, that's a pretty good analogy. One other difference is that unlike a bank, a mortgage broker does not actually fund the loan. The money comes from whichever lender the borrower chooses to go with.

Troy: A common belief is that a borrower will pay more in fees by getting a loan through a mortgage broker. True or false?

Norm: A broker and a direct lender both earn fees for originating your loan in the same manner. They may charge you loan fees directly, or they may charge you fees indirectly by raising your interest rate in exchange for some or all of the loan fees. In this case, when you work with a direct lender, the lender waives your loan fees at closing, but earns them over time through the higher interest rate that you pay. When you work with a broker, the lender pays the loan fees to your broker at closing, and the broker waives your loan fees - the lender still earns them over time by the higher interest rate. The amount received by the broker from the lender is disclosed to you.

Marie: Let's talk about points for a minute. Points are dollars a borrower pays up front to get a lower interest rate. For example, on a \$100,000 loan, a borrower might pay one percentage point, which would be \$1000, to get a quarter point interest rate deduction. This may or may not be a good idea depending on how long the borrow plans on having that loan, right?

Norm: Right. In your example, it would take four years for the lower rate to reimburse the borrower. Here is how you do the math: one quarter percent per year on your \$100,000 loan would be \$250 in interest. Your breakeven is the \$1000 you paid up front divided by the \$250 savings per year. It works out to four years. But it actually takes about 5 years to break even, because if you didn't pay the \$1000 to the lender, you could buy a Treasury note (or other investment) and earn interest on it for those four years.

Troy: Good point. No pun intended. Really.

Marie: That's probably a good place for us to stop. Hey, thanks a ton for talking with us, Norm. I expect you'll hear from some of our readers.

If you have suggestions for topics to cover in Tips For Homeowners, or if you want to receive your copy via email, please write marie@kwvashon.com. And if you need real estate services, please give us a call at (206) 463-LIST. We would love to work for you.

Your Home Team Realty

On Island Properties

(206) 463-LIST (5478)

Cottage Charmer! 13513 SW 170th Street

Darling updated Beulah Park cottage at a very affordable price! Hardwood and Pergo flooring throughout, stainless appliances, stacking W/D, jetted tub, newer roof, and a mature and charming garden complete the very functional two level floorplan. **\$295,000**



- MLS 26044175
- 👉 2 BR

👉 1 bath

👉 840 sq ft

👉 Built in 1926

👉 On sewer

👉 Beulah Pk Water

👉 Two Level

👉 Taxes \$1,999

View Home! 9225 SW 274th Street



- 👉 1946 Sq Ft
- 👉 3 bedrooms
- 👉 3.75 bath
- 👉 Breathtaking View

Come home to a completely remodeled spacious and serene home with a stunning view of that famous mountain and an easy-to-care-for landscaped yard. Everything is updated and fresh throughout, with your comfort and easy living in mind - Viking stove, Bosch dishwasher, new refrigerator and trash compactor, new cabinets, new bathroom fixtures, tiled floors with in-floor heating in the bath, fully wired for cable and home networking, whisper quiet automatic garage door, propane fireplace insert, and much, much more. **\$610,000**
MLS 26034820

Check out the virtual tours of these properties at www.kwvashon.com

Waterfront! 22908 Vashon Hwy SW

This retro chic house calls for clambakes, cocktails, and cabin cruisers! It's 3200 square feet of living space on 75 feet of low bank inner Quartermaster Harbor waterfront. It's picture windows from the floor to the high ceiling to take full advantage of the light and the view of the busy harbor. It's a home for entertaining guests and family, with two large decks practically over the water, plenty of bedrooms and bathrooms, and a separate guest cabin. **\$999,000.**

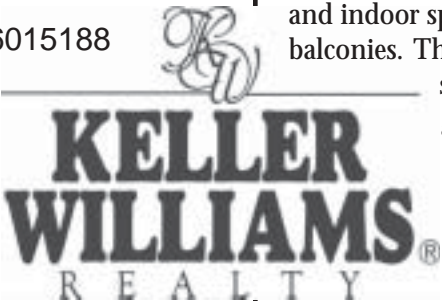


- MLS 26015188
- 👉 3240 Sq Ft

👉 3 bedrooms

👉 2.5 bath

👉 75 feet of low bank waterfront



Fairy Tale Charm 17921 Westside Hwy SW

Fairy tale charm abounds in this Tudor-style home on a shy three acres of Vashon's highly desirable sunny Westside with a view of Colvos Passage. Inside, the well-thought out floor plan allows for plenty of private and communal space in beamed high ceiling rooms that blend outdoor and indoor spaces with French doors and balconies. The grounds include a willow-surrounded pond, cottage garden flower beds, a fenced vegetable garden, paddocks, and a separate garage and workshop with guest quarters. **\$689,000**



MLS 26047640

LoOpEd

Editorials and Letters to the Editor: We welcome your contributions! Submit them by email to: editor@vashonloop.com

The Kneejerk Conservative

By Fran Gordon

We have the best military we have ever had.

By this I mean the best trained, the most thoughtful and conscientious, the best educated. And let's lay to rest one myth for both the officer corps and enlisted ranks, it is not just about the GI Bill or "lack of economic opportunity" with how many illegal immigrants swarming over the border? I've known a number of military folks over the years and I've uniformly (oh I should have resisted) been impressed.

If there are issues (and there are) they lie with us, the American electorate. To name just a few burning issues of the moment there has been an awareness since 1973 that oil was a weak point; there has been since the 1960s an issue with Social Security funding; since the 1970s there have been reams of paper devoted to the unintended consequences of individual and corporate welfare. We have chosen to be pandered to (right and left), we have chosen to let the other guy bear the burdens, we have chosen to take more than we give. We have

just the politicians we want and deserve. Believe it or not I am not arguing for regime change; the Democrats are as much a cause as Republicans. It is time to examine, each of us, our own actions and motivations and the things we know that are not so.

My Dad went to North Africa as a 17-year old Navy recruit. He spent WW2 riding shotgun on submarine patrol. I don't know why but in 1947 he signed up for the US Army. He spent the fiercest part of the Korean War with the Army because he was in Tokyo pulling Occupation duty. He paid for it later. So did we as a family, which is to say some problems would have been there regardless but his experiences magnified things. Nonetheless, he never begrudged anything he gave to his country and through that service, to us; and ,over time, neither have I. I hope I have given something back and paid something forward. I hope he would be as proud of me as I am, in retrospect, of him, and of those who have chosen to serve. Have a blessed Memorial Day.

□□□□

Chamber Speaker

Continued from page 1

McCarthy, co-author of the best-selling *Customer Service the Nordstrom Way*, speak about the "Nordstrom way" as the Chamber kicks off its new "For Your Business" series.

The meeting at Courthouse Square begins with a light lunch at noon. Admission is \$10, with all proceeds going to the Vashon Food Bank.

"If we don't understand customer service and don't appreciate the customer, and don't understand our employees are also our customers, then we don't have a lot to offer people," McCarthy said in a telephone interview. "What sets a good business apart is the people who smile, who are friendly, who follow through. They are not necessarily trying to sell you, but are trying to help you. All of the things people do that you don't get when

you shop on the computer — the real touches. They tell the story."

"The question I have for Vashon is where are you going to take someone when they visit the Island? What are the best places? What works? Those are the kinds of questions we should always be asking ourselves as a community."

The Chamber has been growing in the last several months. Recent additions to the Board of Trustees include Molly Reed, Executive Director of Vashon Allied Arts; Lisa Mathias, President of the Vashon Island Growers Association (VIGA); and Bill Dorn, Co-owner of Sound Food.

Reservations are requested due to limited seating. If you would like to hold a spot, call the Chamber at 408-8057, or email Lee Ockinga at lee@vashonchamber.com. Books by the Way will be offering copies of McCarthy's book for sale after the meeting.

Nomination Form:

Your name:

Phone:

Email (if applicable):

Person you are nominating:

Business you are nominating:

Why are you nominating this person or business for its exemplary customer service?

To nominate someone, send this nomination by June 1 to:
Vashon Island Chamber Customer Service Award
PO Box 1035, Vashon, WA 98070

Recognize Great Customer Service!

The Vashon Island Chamber wants to let the community know that customer service is a valuable thing to offer. With that in mind, the Chamber is asking you to fill out the ballot (to the left) and mail it in to the Chamber offices by June 1. The winning entry will be judged by your Chamber Board of Trustees, and the winner will receive recognition in an upcoming newspaper, as well as a reward. Call Lee Ockinga at the Chamber of Commerce at (206) 408-8057 if you have questions about the nomination process, or email her at lee@vashonchamber.com. Nominations should be sent to Vashon Chamber Customer Service Award, PO Box 1035, Vashon, WA 98070

Windermere

REAL ESTATE

Personalized Web Search
Windermere Foundation
Windermere Bridge Loan

Buyer Representation
Free Maps / Catalogs
Lifestyles NW Magazine

The Windermere Way...
It's a vision, a culture,
a different way of doing business

Neighbors helping neighbors...that's Windermere

206.463.9148 or 800.845.3299
www.vashonisland.com
vashon@windermere.com

Loop Letters

Editor, *The Loop*:

I promised several people who stopped by the Vashon-Maury Democratic Club table at the Mother's Day Celebration in Ober Park that I would publish the results of our informal survey. We had a pie chart with the Federal Budget for 2007 divided into six sections. We gave each participant six pennies and asked that they decide where to put those pennies representing their tax dollars. There was one jar for each segment of the budget. People could put all their pennies in

Resources including Agriculture, Interior, Transportation- Federal 6%, Vashon 23%; General Government including Interest on Debt other than military generated, Justice, Homeland Security, International Affairs – Federal 12%, Vashon 7%; Military overall Federal 49%, Vashon 7%.

The military portion was divided into three sections. Vashon voted 6% for Past Military which includes Veterans Benefits and interest on the national debt due to military. The portion devoted to military personnel, operations and maintenance, procurement and nuclear weapons got 1% of the Vashon vote and the presidential supplemental budget going to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan received no Vashon votes.

I was struck with how many people agonized over their choices. Some who at first impulse were about to put all their pennies in the Human Resources jar, paused and reconsidered, saying they realized that even if we disagree with how debt was incurred, to neglect to pay it would get us in even worse trouble. Quite a few expressed that while they were against the war completely, they are sympathetic with the veterans who have borne so much sacrifice and want them to have all the support they need.

Two people expressed the wish that we could decide in a similar fashion exactly where our real tax money goes. If you want more information on this go to <http://www.warresisters.org/piechart.htm>.

Jennie Hodgson

Correction:

In "The Lone Protestor (*The Loop*, Vol. 3, # 10, May 10, 2006)" the statement: "Recently two state legislatures ...submitted resolutions to the U.S. House of Representatives demanding Bush's impeachment" should have said:"...had resolutions submitted which, if passed, will be sent to the U.S. House of Representatives demanding Bush's impeachment."



Jenny Hodgson and pennies.

one of the jars, one penny in each, or any combination.

A total of 372 votes were cast in the form of pennies. The segments of the Federal Budget , the percentage of the actual 2007 budget, and then the percentage of Vashon votes are listed below:

Human Resources including Health and Human Services, food and nutrition, housing, labor – Federal 33%, Vashon 63%; Physical

Harbor School Welcomes Kellner

The Harbor School welcomes Gayle Kellner as the new Lower School teacher of the fourth and fifth grade multi-age program. “Gayle brings to us many years of experience, along with an engaging style we believe will add much to the culture here at The Harbor School,” says Head of School Toby Welch, “It is clear that Kellner knows children well, has high expectation of their performance, and has a strong understanding of their developmental needs.”

Kellner began working with children twenty-five years ago, and is passionate about her profession. “I have a love for teaching, and an enthusiasm for life! As an experienced classroom teacher, I enjoy working collaboratively with parents and colleagues. My goal is to provide an interesting, emotionally safe and motivating learning environment where each student is supported to work



Gayle Kellner Courtesy Photo

towards his or her personal best,” says Kellner.

A long time resident of Vashon Island, Kellner is a mother of two boys, and a regionally known artist and writer. She enjoys gardening, travel and horseback riding. She plans to incorporate her interests into the Lower School program.

For more information, please call The Harbor School at 567-5955 or visit www.harborschool.org.



The Threshold Choir

Threshold Choir and Total Experience Gospel Remember Departed

The first Community Remembrance service to honor the passing of friends and loved ones will take place on **May 28** at the Land Trust Building from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All Islanders are invited to

Search for Principal, Asst. Principal, Begins

Interviews of candidates to fill the Principal and Assistant Principal positions at Chautauqua Elementary have begun. A community forum to meet finalists is tentatively set **for June 12**, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Finalist(s) will interview with the Superintendent and a School Board member prior to a recommendation for hire, presented to the entire School Board on June 22, 2006.

VashonPages.com

On Line Directory

Free Event Listing!

Arts, Clubs, Meetings, Music, Sports, Non-Profit Groups

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Experience Faster Service

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<http://www.RegisterExp.com>

Discounted rates available for Non-profits www.DomainDiscountProgram.com

participate, light a candle and share remembrances and enjoy music by the Threshold Choir (a local group of women who sing at the bedside of people in hospice care) and the Total Experience Gospel Choir from Seattle. The Rev. Judy Beggs, an Interfaith Minister and Island resident, will lead the service. Those attending are asked to bring a flower

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for a community bouquet and may share a memento or photo if they wish. Refreshments will be provided. Further information can be obtained by calling Susan Commeree 567-5707 or Melissa Frykman-Thieme 463-9561.

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by Mary Litchfield Tuel

Spiritual Smart Aleck

Feng Shui and the New Kitchen Floor

It started with the hole in the kitchen floor. After eighteen years of getting up and down, scraping the chair legs over the same spot, the vinyl flooring under the kitchen table became ragged, then broken, and the next thing you know we had a six-inch hole down to the sub-floor. Clearly, Something Had to Be Done. We decided on a new laminate floor, which my husband would install.

That’s what we did, and the floor is gorgeous, but you know how it is — you start one project and realize that you’ve begun a process that is much more than one project.

We have years of stuff: my stuff, my husband’s stuff, our two sons-who-don’t-live-here-anymore’s stuff, our granddaughter’s stuff, my husband’s dead mother’s and my dead mother’s stuff (which we had to bring in from out of state), my aunt and uncle’s stuff (they died childless in 1987); family heirlooms, books, tchotchkes, toys, and paper. Lots and lots of paper. Everything from furniture to paper clips.

There are also wires. Telephone wires, computer wires, television and cable wires, appliance cords...well, you get the picture.

To sum it up, we have been living in a house so full of the past, there is no room to live in the present.

I was injured in a car wreck a few years ago and decided to hire some help with the heavy lifting, and it so happened that a friend of a friend was looking for work. I hired him, and he came down, I thought, to move things I couldn’t. Furniture and file cabinets.

He walked into the house, took one long thoughtful look, and pronounced, “We need to Feng Shui this place (did I mention he’s been living in Marin County the last fifteen years or so?).” He started sorting, tossing, and moving stuff,

muttering about Feng Shui all the while. First thing to go was my dresser. Instead of the yard sale I’ve been fantasizing for years, we gave things away. Whee!

“Treasure,” our Feng Shui man said. “You’re looking for treasure.” With that perspective I kept my father’s World War II dog tags (treasure) and let go of...what was that stuff? Not treasure.

Then we moved in some filing cabinets (Granny’s giveth, Granny’s taketh away). The Honorable Mr. Feng Shui was not the first to tell me, “You need some file cabinets to store all this paper.”

Two weeks later, the kitchen has a new floor, my old office is almost cleaned out preparatory to putting down a new floor in there, and the new office is upstairs. I still have stacks of things to go through and file, recycle, or throw away.

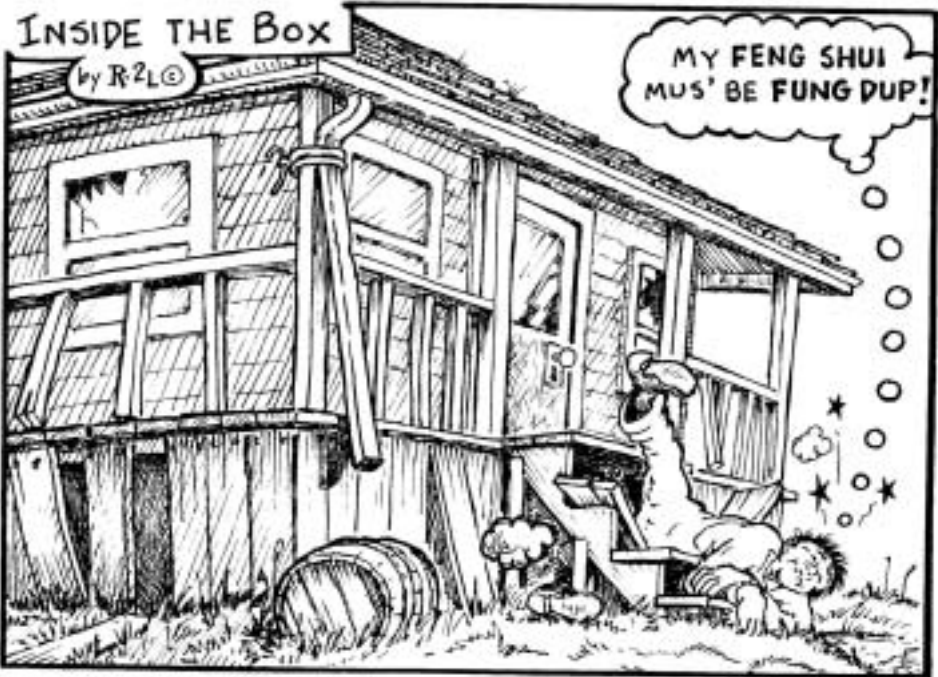
There were times our Feng Shui man pushed me so hard to throw things out that I wanted to throttle him, but that didn’t bother him and he got us closer to having the house we really want to, and are able to, live in. It has been incredibly stressful, all this change, all this letting go, but worth it.

The rules are: Do you love it enough to take it to the grave? Will you use it this week? Every thing else, OUT.

The slice of wedding cake from your first wedding; the kids’ placentas in the freezer; every single piece of paper your baby ever touched with a crayon; forty years of film negatives; the broken clarinet reed your boyfriend gave you in high school; the *National Geographics* -- out, out, OUT. Jesus will not ask you if you have these things handy when he comes again.

Don’t think of it as loss. Think of it as lightening your load.

Feng shui, you all. ☺☺☺☺



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Vashon Sportsmen’s Club Annual Trout Derby For Kids

Sunday June 4th 12:00pm (noon)

Grab a pole (we have some to lend too) and come on down to the Vashon Sportsmen’s Club annual trout derby. All kids 12 and under are invited to fish in the pond and compete for lots of exciting prizes and fishing gear.

Come Early and sign in at 11:30am

Come join the fun of reeling in a jumping and splashing trout while enjoying hot dogs, pop, and chili! Not to mention some good ol’ country & bluegrass tunes courtesy of John Van Amerongen!

www.vashonsportsmensclub.com

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Low Tide Fest

Continued from page 1

One event of great significance for shoreline owners will be a beach walk at noon from Pt. Robinson to the home of Pat Collier, a mile or so



Sea Pen and Nudibranch Courtesy Photo

south. There Eliza Ghitis, from People for Puget Sound, will explain the ongoing project of removing an old bulkhead and restoring Pat’s beach. Geologist David Frank and plant expert Helen Meeker will discuss the origins of the land formations and the identities of the plants seen along the way.

Among the tents there will be a Speaker’s Corner at which invited experts will take turns giving brief talks about shoreline topics. You can grab a sandwich and listen, between a beach excursion and your next activity. Or you can shop for a lighthouse souvenir, or a low tide t-shirt as you wait for the next birding trip to depart. All the activities are free.

Even Darsie Beck’s Nature Journaling workshop is free, although you should equip yourself in advance by going to Essentials 4 and purchasing the supplies Darsie has asked Kathleen to stock, including a sketchbook, brush, and watercolor set. Please register for this workshop by calling Rayna Holtz, at 463-3153. Bring a neighbor and try it — there are still many spaces available, and it’ll provide a unique perspective on the events of the day.

This celebration has been planned by representatives of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society, People for Puget Sound, Washington Scuba Alliance, Vashon Park District, and the Land Use and Natural Resources Committee. Many other groups are helping to sponsor the activities.

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Vashon Library Programs June 2006

Great Books Discussion Group
Monday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.
Topic: Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave
Our book group meets on the first Monday of each month and our discussions include all types of great literature, from ancient to modern times. Please join us for some very stimulating conversations. Co-sponsored by King County Library System. No registration required.
Talk Time
Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 7:00 p.m.
Practice speaking English in a relaxed setting. All nationalities and skill levels are welcome. Free! No registration required.
Best of the Web, Part 2: Finding the Information You Need on the Internet
Wednesday, June 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Want to get directions to the mall? See what’s playing at Benaroya Hall? How to buy airline tickets? Find out if a car is a “lemon”? Get a recipe? Our Netmaster, Bobbi Hurst, will teach you where to start, and how to find “The Best of the Best” sites. This is Part 2 in a series, and includes new and interesting websites. Prerequisite: Intro to the Internet or More Searching on the Internet. Registration begins May 31st. Call 463-2069 to pre-register.
Children’s Paperback Book Exchange
Saturday, June 24, 1-4 p.m.
Elementary school ages
Want to freshen up your personal book collection at home? Come to our paperback book exchange and trade in your paperbacks for some fresh new titles! Trade-in limit is 15 titles. Registration not required. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.
LateNight @the Library
Saturday, June 24, 6-10 p.m.
Grades 6-12

Limber up for DDR at the library: Dance Dance Revolution open play will be available. Participate in the Vashon Library Cyber Café and surf the web or play a game! Refreshments! Door prizes! Security will be provided. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.
Healthy Eating The French Way
Sunday, June 25, 2:00 p.m.
Presented by Yolande Matoré Hoisington, MA, registered health counselor, psychologist and author of *Pace of Provence Cookbook*. When life gets busy do you sometimes sacrifice your healthy diet? Learn ways to plan healthy menus that can improve your eating habits without sacrificing time or taste. Discover how the French enjoy wholesome, delicious food without gaining weight. In this workshop you will learn to: Increase personal time in your busy schedule; improve your eating habits; make shopping easy and fun; plan fast, healthy and delicious menus; be inspired by new and healthy ideas to cook the French way in ten easy steps. No registration required.
Monkey Business
Tuesday, June 27, 7 p.m.
Program will be held in the Ober Park building next to the library. Presented by Brothers from Different Mothers Family program, all ages welcome. This high-energy comedy and juggling show features amazing tricks and tons of critter comedy. Be sure to catch this beauty and the beast duo in action. Registration not required.
Preschool Story Times
Wednesdays, June 28-August 2, 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Ages 3 to 6 with adult, younger siblings may attend. Please join us for stories, songs and fun! Registration not required.
Brown Bag Story Times
Wednesdays, June 28-August 2, Noon to 12:30 p.m. Ages 5 to 10
Bring a sack lunch to eat while you enjoy great stories read aloud! Registration not required. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

Flying Fun!
Ages 5 to 7: Thursday, June 29, 11 a.m.-Noon
Ages 7 to 11: Thursday, June 29, 1-2:30 p.m.
Walk on the Wild Side with Barbara Gustafson Learn about the four forces of flight: lift, gravity, thrust and drag, and then build and test a bird and other flyers. Registration required beginning June 15. Please call (206)463-2069. Co-sponsored by the Vashon Park District.

Public Meeting June 29: Building Design for New/ Expanded Library

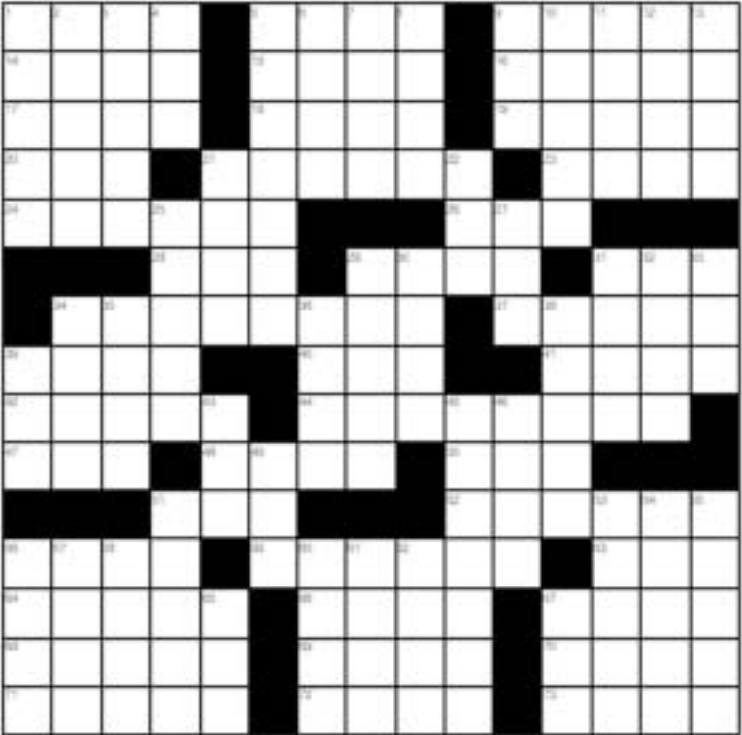
There will be a meeting on **Thursday, June 29, 6:30-8 p.m.** at the Vashon Parks District Office,17130 Vashon Highway SW. Come hear more about the proposed exchange of properties between the King County Library System (KCLS) and the Vashon Parks District for the expanded Vashon Library. Review conceptual drawings of possible locations for the new library and meet the architects from Bohlin Cywinski Jackson.



ACROSS	51 Her
1 Part of a football player’s gear	52 Club
5 Pedestal part	56 Beautiful bird
9 Spouses	59 Textile
14 Tier	63 River (Spanish)
15 False god graven image	64 Cliff debris
16 Show appreciation to	66 Journalist’s question
17 Land mass	67 Pa
18 Praise enthusiastically	68 Held high
19 Famous composer	69 Naughty or __
20 Limb	70 Won
21 Of this	71 Shallow
23 Association (abbr.)	72 Sledge
24 Psycho	73 Possessive pronoun
26 Total	
28 Fall mo.	DOWN
29 Berserk	1 Sacred song
31 Evening	2 Afloat (2 wds.)
34 Vault (2 wds.)	3 Condescend
37 Coat	4 Hotel
39 Wise Man	5 Guides
40 Football assoc.	6 6th month
41 Allot (with “out”)	(Jewish calendar)
42 Sound of keyboard keys	7 Bird of peace
44 Neatness	8 Margarine
47 Cocktail drink	9 I want my __
48 Grand __ (car race)	10 In the lead
50 Not (refix)	11 Sticky black substances

12 Aborts
13 Injure
21 Chop
22 Food and Agri. Org.
25 Type of Greek column
27 Dekaliter (abbr.)
29 Append
30 Show for a score
31 Potato sprouts
32 They served
33 Bard’s before
34 Indonesian island
35 Against
36 Negative (prefix)
38 Revise
39 Metric weight unit
43 Km/h
45 Angered
46 Part of speech
49 Representative
51 Put out
53 Dignity
54 Down duck
55 Tons
56 Nova
57 Wheal
58 Healing plant
60 Has

61 Day-time tv’s Mr. Donahue
62 Do up shoes
65 Eye infection
67 Telegraphic signal





Iris Photo by Peter Ray

Island Life

Text & photos by Peter Ray
After the Garden is Gone

Where will people go, after the garden is gone?
What will people know, after the garden...

— Neil Young, “After the Garden,” *Living With War*

There will be a slight departure from my previously scheduled, year-long excursion with plants in this space. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but there are two very good reasons for this deviation.

The tipping point, a term that showed up twice yesterday in both a conversation and an article I read, was reached during a chat with my neighbor at the Bellevue Farmer’s Market. His name was Dave, and at twenty-six years old he told me that, given existing circumstances in this world today, he had no idea what his future would bring. He was at the market selling wild foraged foods from around the state — mushrooms, nettles, fiddlehead ferns. I pointed out that, if the worst happened and everything collapsed, he would be the one eminently qualified to carry on with things — something to which he readily agreed but with more than a smidgeon of cold comfort attached.

The second reason is that I was recently informed by my parents of the graduation of one of my nephews from National Guard boot camp. Even though I was assured that this experience has changed his life for the better, I can’t help but believe that there could have been more positive ways for him to “be all he can be” than as potential roadside bomb fodder in Iran – I mean Iraq — or as a bored and overheated sentinel on the US-Mexican border.

The thing about farmer’s markets, besides the market part, is that it puts one out there with the people. A marketplace is not only about commerce, but is also an arena where an exchange of ideas can take place as well. This seems to be a bit more of a truism at the Vashon Market than the one in Bellevue. While it should come as no surprise that the buzz on this Island is filled with discontent over current political events, I did get involved in a long and detailed discussion about the state of things at the Bellevue Market, but many of the points being made on the other side of the table about politics and the government were often spoken in softer tones than one usually hears from Islanders. But what I was hearing being said in both places

was along similar lines, and that was a voicing of frustration at what was happening in our government, along with being at a complete loss as to what can be done to change that.

Indeed, from the outset of both terms of this administration in which voting and counting discrepancies called into question the legitimacy of this presidency; to the eventual revelation that basic facts were distorted so that we were led to believe that a war was not only justifiable, but necessary against a maniacal leader of a country with major oil reserves because they supposedly had weapons larger than a bread box and could possibly do us some kind of harm; to a major scandal involving large amounts of money and gifts and influence-peddling that could be tied directly to higher ups in the administration; to the reports in which basic human and constitutional rights were shown to be violated in both the treatment of prisoners of war and in the wiretapping and the questionable scrutiny of phone records of what has been reported to be tens of millions of American citizens; one cannot help but feel helpless and defeated, unless one happens to be Dylan Avery.

At the moment, as an aspiring young filmmaker from upstate New York, Avery has every reason to feel optimistic, since his documentary *Loose Change*, 2nd Edition is at the Number One spot (as well as number four) on the Google Videos



Towers Photo courtesy of Tamara Beckwith

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Top 100 list, getting somewhere between fifty and one hundred thousand downloads a week. This started out as an idea for a fictional screenplay about a revelation that instead of being an act of foreign terrorism against the United States, the events of 9/11 were actually a contrivance of our own government in order to justify what otherwise might be unjustifiable, like say attacking another country to get back at terrorists and their oil, and stripping Americans of what were formerly known as Constitutional rights, all in the name of Homeland Security. I believe he makes a convincing argument with the truths he has found, but he is not alone.

Canadian journalist Barry Zwicker has made a film called *The Great Conspiracy*, which in spite of the unfortunate title takes a more investigative approach. While Avery did the legwork of bringing together relevant news footage and bits of previous studies, Zwicker interviews experts in various fields who all agree that the story we were told about the “attacks”, well, it just ain’t right. One can find more than one might care to learn about all of this at the website: www.universalseed.org. One can also go to <http://screwloosechange.blogspot.com/> to find what I would call the swiftboating of the Loose Change message, but that might just be me.

So, who knows where all that will lead us, if anywhere? I know liberals that still refuse to buy into it, and conservatives who are shocked and appalled at the implications, which brings us around to another of my pet peeves. In spite of all the “United We Stand” bumper stickers driving around, in point of fact we are not in a united stance. We are constantly being told that we aren’t by the insistent drumbeat of the media repetition of the red state-blue state thing. We have also been told that because of the growing unpopularity of our president, the number of official red states has

dwindled to less than ten. I believe that this is as divisive as the Cold War designations of commies and capitalists, and because of that, what we have is a divide-and-conquer situation which in turn keeps us wondering what we can do. The answer that came to me a short while back might have come from Missouri and is a simple two word statement: Show Me.

Video has become somewhat of a dream medium — pretty much anyone can do it. Why not have a clearing house for homegrown videos from across the country that are not religious or political but that show what is going on in American communities? It could be somebody painting or building a barn or even the video I did a short while back about the Worm Guy and his efforts to get green waste out of the landfill and back into our gardens. It could be done through cable access or the internet — I don’t know what would work best and easiest. That’s why I’m putting it here, and out there, in the hopes that someone with the time and the know-how might help in a kind of American, cooperative, united way. Originally I had thought of it as the See America Project, but while standing in line at the Post Office a couple days ago I noticed that they have their See America stamp series, so it seemed it would be best to find another name. Then, while listening to Neil Young’s new *Living With War* album, quoted back at the beginning, it came to me while listening to his song “Families.” It could be called American Family — the Video Project. It should not be confused with An America Family, the seventies PBS documentary about the Louds and their numerous family problems. This would be about rebuilding what I once thought was America, not about the dissolution of the principles ensuring its basic rights and values. Perhaps Neil might even lend his song to the titles or the credits for each show. Here’s a verse to leave on. I think it might work. What do you think?

**There’s a universe
between us now
But I want to reach out
and tell you how
Much you mean
to me and my Family.**

Peace out.

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Garden the World



More OrganicBytes

(compiled from various sources)

By MEarth

Horizon and Aurora Banned in Co-ops: Last month, the Organic Consumers Association called on consumers to boycott dairy companies like Horizon and Aurora for their practice of raising “organic” cattle on intensive confinement feedlots. A number of natural food stores and co-ops across the U.S. are beginning to respond to concerned consumers and removing suspect dairy products from their stores. The Wedge Co-op in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the second largest co-op in the U.S., no longer carries Horizon products. In Colorado, the Boulder Co-op Market, has also discontinued stocking Horizon products. Amy Wyatt, Assistant General Manager for the Co-op, says, “Based on our concerns regarding Horizon’s practices, we didn’t feel that continuing to carry this company’s products was consistent with our mission and values.” Dean Foods, Horizon’s parent company, is also starting to come under fire for abandoning U.S. organic soybean farmers and importing cheap soybeans from China, where organic standards are dubious, and farm labor wages and conditions are abysmal. Dean Foods now controls the nation’s largest organic soymilk brand, Silk, as well as the largest organic tofu brand, White Wave.

StarBUCKS: Despite years of grassroots pressure, Starbucks continues to serve milk from cows that are injected with Monsanto’s controversial genetically engineered recombinant bovine growth hormone, also known as rBGH or rBST. Virtually every industrial country, except for the United States, has banned the use of rBGH. Milk produced from cows injected with rBGH poses serious hazards to human health, including increased risks for cancer. The time has come to kick rBGH off the market, once and for all. If Starbucks, a major buyer of milk, were to ban rBGH

dairy products in its coffee beverages other major corporations would likely do the same.

Despite Big Soda PR, Companies Won’t Be Leaving Schools: Last week, big soda producers like Coca-Cola and Pepsi sucked up volumes of positive press after announcing that they were removing soda pop from U.S. schools. The beverage companies seemed to be finally responding to pressure from parents across the nation concerned about junk foods and beverages in schools and childhood obesity. A closer look at the actual statements of the soda giants, however, reveals that no actual implementation of these policies is planned. In fact, according to the American Beverage Association, an industry trade group representing soda companies, the so-called new policy is completely voluntary, and first requires that individual school districts actually request to have soda machines removed. Susan Neely, president of the American Beverage Association said: “This is a voluntary policy, but I think schools will want to follow it.” Because school districts already have the power to add or remove vending machines from schools, last week’s policy announcement from the soda industry amounts to nothing more than another deceptive, albeit clever PR campaign.

Bird Flu Scare Hits U.S.—In A Made-for-TV Movie: Recently, ABC aired a movie entitled *Fatal Contact: Bird Flu in America*. The film portrayed a worse-case scenario outbreak where millions of people die within the first few weeks of an avian flu pandemic. The network advertised the film as being based on fact and stated it was “one step ahead of the headlines.” A coalition of public interest organizations, including the Organic Consumers Association have called on ABC to take a step back from sensationalism and present its viewers with factual information on the spread of such diseases. A letter written by the coalition to Anne Sweeney, the President of Disney-ABC, states “The role of large industrial-scale poultry operations – where up to hundreds of thousands of birds can be housed indoors in cramped



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conditions – is not being examined by most of the media or by government officials charged with preventing the spread of the virus. Such facilities not only provide prime conditions for the mutation and spread of the virus between birds, but also rely heavily on genetically similar birds not likely to be resistant to disease.”

Vitamin Supplements & The Bird Flu Pandemic: The White House is advising the public to stockpile food and water to prepare for a potential bird flu pandemic. The Bush Administration’s report states that since the pandemic could kill as many as two million Americans, massive taxpayer subsidies must be handed over to the pharmaceutical industry to develop a magic bullet vaccine. Meanwhile, according to Wall Street analysts, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has already pocketed a million dollars off of his investments in the company Gilead Sciences, the California biotech company that owns the rights to Tamiflu, the world’s most popular influenza remedy. Meanwhile, the United Nations global coordinator on Avian Influenza is considering a more holistic approach to dealing with a potential outbreak. The result is a series of reports, including one entitled, *The Pivotal Role for Natural Products in Countering an Avian Influenza Pandemic*. The report, authored by four leading scientists and doctors in the fields of nutritional medicine and health, focuses on the key nutrients zinc, vitamin C, and vitamin A as primary supplemental medicines to strengthen peoples’ immune systems to fight off the flu. According to the report’s lead author, “Following an extensive



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review of over 250 peer-reviewed studies, we believe that the protocols developed here can help to buy time and fill the gap between the outbreak of a pandemic and the months or years required for development and manufacture of effective vaccines.”

More Quick Tidbits: France’s top judicial court has denied Monsanto’s requests to grow test plots of genetically engineered corn in two locations. The court says the biotech corporation has not provided enough details about where these experimental field trials would be located. Monsanto has responded by saying that despite the court ruling, the corporation will continue testing genetically engineered crops in France. “We’ll continue our experiments, but we might have to change a bit the way we ask for licenses in the future,” said Yann Fichet, director of external relations for Monsanto France.

Over 1600 sheep apparently died this month in India after ingesting genetically engineered (GE) cotton. The massive deaths occurred after several days of grazing in fields where Monsanto’s Bt and herbicide resistant spliced varieties of cotton were planted. Scientists from India’s Centre for Sustainable Agriculture are calling on the government to launch a study into the impacts of GE cotton toxins.

The Dorsal Spin: Technical Difficulties for Whales and Humans

By Orca Annie Stateler

For the first time in many years, we spent Mother’s Day with my parents. They took a Panama Canal cruise that terminated in Seattle. Fortunately, they were not on the ship with Captain Hazelwood’s drunken protégé (For the younger readers, in March 1989, intoxicated Captain Hazelwood slammed the tanker Exxon Valdez into a reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska, causing the worst oil spill ever in US waters. The oil still lingers and the wildlife has not recovered. Kids, don’t drink and boat, or drive).

I warned them to be prepared for cool, rainy Seattle weather, but they managed to be in town for the warmest days of the year thus far. While the parental units were here, Odin and I got a brief reprieve from our daily grind. We played tourists in the Market and tried new restaurants.

Stogarita watched bunnies and squirrels at Woodland Park, but chased only her ball, not the tiny critters. She also provided lap therapy. My parents’ two Jack Russells died recently. Both dogs were Stogarita’s relatives. Mom wanted to sneak my dog home in her suitcase.

A highlight of the Vashon-Maury tour was seeing Vashon’s Cutest Lawnmowers, from Rent-A-Ruminant, working hard at Pt. Robinson. They were so adorable and friendly, we wanted to pet them, but they were behind an electric fence. Perhaps this is to keep the humans from disrupting work as much as to keep the goats corralled. We had to show my parents our handsome Muscovy duck neighbor, too.

We enjoyed Island hospitality at The Rock and Zoomie’s, my mom’s picks for dinner and dessert. Chuck and Carol, if you are reading, my



mom is still raving about your pizza. Of course, Mom and Dad returned to Tucson with a bag of Orca Blend and a copy of *The Loop*.

Alas, reality reared its harsh head the day after my parents left. As I dutifully prepared my Dorsal Spin, the starter on Odin’s work van crapped out in Seattle just before Friday afternoon rush hour. I went to rescue him, but my article straggled in quite late. After several frustrating delays, the darn van is still at a repair shop in Seattle.

Also in the bummer category: another young, endangered whale succumbed to a ship strike in Northwest waters. The juvenile male fin whale found floating in Lummi Bay on May 14 was battered on his right side by a large, ocean-going vessel. At 56 feet long, this whale was only four or five years old. The preliminary necropsy findings are posted in the Whale Museum’s news section at www.whalemuseum.org.

Fin whales are not common to Puget Sound. They occur in coastal and offshore waters along the West Coast. They are rorquals, the second largest after blue whales. Fins can reach 78 feet in the Northern hemisphere, 88 feet in the Southern hemisphere, and can weigh 50 to 70 tons. They eat krill and schooling fish. Fin whales are endangered because their populations were decimated by commercial whaling and they have not rebounded. Read more on the Fin Whale Cetacean Fact Sheet at www.acspugetsound.org.

Fins are called “greyhounds of the sea” because they swim fast, up to 23 mph. Despite their size and speed, they are vulnerable to collisions with shipping traffic because of the way they feed. According to ACS/PS science

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Horus’ question of the week:
What’s so hard to understand about responsible pet ownership?

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advisor John Calambokidis, who examined the Lummi Bay whale and prepared the preliminary report, the whale may have been killed far away from Puget Sound and got slung on a ship’s bow, unbeknownst to the crew. Astoundingly, three struck fin whales were found in Puget Sound in 2002, and two of them were wrapped around the bows of ships. Are we unreasonable to ask that shipping technology be modified so it is not lethal to whales and other wildlife?

Thanks to Melanie for calling to report a large whale, likely a humpback, in East Passage on May 17. This year, I hope Dalco returns, or one of his friends. The whale Melanie saw did not stick around.

Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) by reporting local whale sightings ASAP to 463-9041. Contact Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com. ☺☺☺☺

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Summer Rules

By Susan Wolf

O.K. — for all you people coming to the Island this summer, we want to give you just a little refresher course on Vashon manners. We know those big city neighborhoods with their “Upscale” (snobbish) malls are pretty constrictive, but you’re on Island property now. It’s isolated. It’s different and new rules apply. Kind of like an alternate universe.

When you drive on Vashon, you do the speed limit. No more; no less. You yield to pedestrians. That’s right – you know what yield is, right? You haven’t forgotten. It’s when you take turns, but you give the other person a turn first. You learned it in Kindergarten.

When people are jogging or bicycling on the same side of the road, you move over away from them just a little. And if they’re on the opposite side, you STILL move over to give the other cars more room to move over. Don’t ask

questions – it’s just done that way here.

Island time is just a little more patient. So no getting impatient with Thriftway store clerks or people at the Variety store. You don’t get mad if they don’t have what you want and threaten to go elsewhere. There is no elsewhere. Besides, if you just ask nicely, they’ll order it for you anyway.

When you go on the ferries, you don’t get rude with the ferry workers. They have to put up with crappy people like you all day. You forgive them when they’re tired and cranky. You keep acting polite and friendly. If a ferry is late or broken, you don’t scream and pound on your dashboard. It doesn’t make the ferry come any sooner.

And if you happen to be the first on the ferry but the last off, chalk it up to Karma. One day you’ll have a turn and get on last and be off first.

When you are eating out, you treat the waitresses like real people. Nice people. The kind of people

that baby-sit your kid and go to church with you. Because they do. You don’t criticize their artwork. It’s their restaurant. You can have what kind of art you like in your beach house.

Don’t give money to the people in Village Green unless they are behind a table at the Farmers Market. If you want to feed hungry people, donate to our food bank. If you want to house homeless people join the Interfaith Counsel on Homelessness. Just ask any church or pastor, there are plenty here.

If you find a wallet on the sidewalk turn it into a store. Everyone here returns lost property.

Don’t make fun of people who wear comfortable clothing. Everybody here wears comfortable clothing. Just remember to change when you get back to the mainland because people won’t understand. I forgot once and ended up meeting the Seattle Fire Chief and the Burien City Manager in my *Annie/Drama Dock* T-shirt.

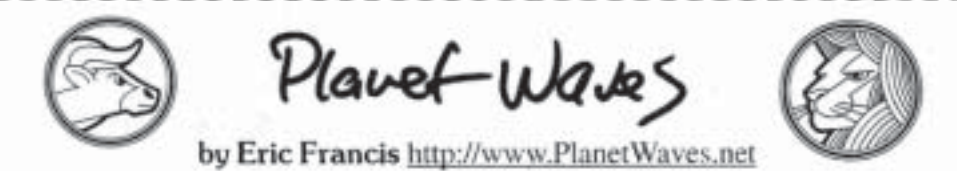
People here eat good food or great food, but in relaxed surroundings. Nobody here eats crappy food in a pretentious setting.

Brush up on your college botany. You’ll see flowers and shrubs that don’t appear anywhere else on the planet and if you’re going to compliment someone’s garden, you want to sound knowledgeable. Oh, and don’t complain about stationary bikes on the beach or piles of junk metal welded together or Styrofoam figures. Everyone here has an artistic talent of some kind. You have, too – it’s probably just buried from years of working in a cubicle.

And never, ever, under any circumstance let the word “bridge” slip from your lips. It’s not a joke and you’ll find otherwise gentle people snarling at you unexpectedly. It’s different here and we like it that way. Now go ahead and have a pleasant summer! Because when you visit here, you can pretend you’re FROM here. And that makes you one of us! ☺☺☺☺



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Happy Birthday Gemini!
You have plenty of time, though you may feel an impulse to go more quickly or to make progress faster than you're currently going. The ways in which you do advance your own cause are likely to come as a surprise, and rather than push, the most intelligent thing you can do is invest your energy in being prepared and staying aware. It is true that you have some innovative goals in mind, ones that you have not been able to articulate clearly so far. But all that is changing fast, and as you gain clarity, the correct path of action will seem more obvious every day.

Aries (March 20-April 19): Recent events or developments may have you feeling a bit apprehensive about making too much progress too fast. You may feel as if there is some pitfall in your way. Yet in many senses, the worst is over and you have been through the most critical changes. You would go a long way this month to settle your soul by concentrating on practical matters to address your emotional concerns, your home base and financial affairs being two excellent places to start. You know the time to initiate changes in these specific areas has arrived, and you must know it will do you a lot of good to take charge.

Taurus (April 19-May 20): You've finally begun to take an emotional partnership more seriously, but in a way, that really means less seriously. The tarot card "The Lovers" is sometimes referred to as "The Brothers," and while it may not seem romantic to view those in whom you have a love interest as a sibling, there's a practical side to this equation that's begging for your attention. Your ideas about love and sex tend toward the sentimental, whereas it's actually possible you could have more fun and experience deeper connection with a more clear-headed approach. I know you want what you want. In that spirit, take the direct path.

Gemini (May 20-June 21): Now that you've learned to breathe air and water, you're ready to breathe a bit of fire. As recent perhaps disturbing events involving friends or key allies have shown you, this can be dangerous, because your words have impact beyond what you may think. What you may lack in diplomacy you are more than compensating for in natural charm and charisma, and in fact, certain individuals are willing to take your lead. You could go a long way toward smoothing out your energy and your overall presentation by remembering how strong your idea is, and remembering that long-term persistence gets the job done — but a bold and brazen attitude is what gets it started.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You seem to be in no mood to take anyone's emotional manipulation sitting down, however I

suggest you look beneath your own feelings at the layer of hurt and mistrust that you may be carrying around. If this is a sin, it's in the true sense of the word — a lack of some sort, and you would be doing yourself a big favor by keeping a short list of your most important needs and making sure you devote time every day to getting them met. Unconsciously you may fear that others will judge you for doing this, but I assure you that for the people who care the most, it will come as a great relief.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23): You've accomplished quite a bit in terms of building a foundation for yourself, and the agreements you've made with partners, love interests or other key individuals in your life are the stable ground that makes your potential real. You may fear that people will hesitate at the moment you need them to be strong, but nothing is further from the truth. When in doubt, start a conversation on any matter that concerns you. Ask for help when you need it, and ask people to stand back when you need to take center stage of your own life. Everyone knows better than you — it is high time for that.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): Basically, any questions you may face surrounding your psychological health come down to food and exercise. Obviously you know this intellectually, and you believe it in theory, but you may be in the midst of a mild (or not so mild) disconnect when it comes to putting ideas into action. Work with patterns. One action in a direction other than you're accustomed to represents a change in a pattern, and two actions in that direction represent the beginnings of a new one. Persist daily, weekly or sporadically with sincerity and you will advance your cause considerably. The long run is the one that counts most.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23): You've known a long time that you needed to make deep, lasting changes in your personality if you were going to ever be happy. What you may not have noticed is that you've nearly succeeded in making all of them. What points haven't you touched upon? I think one may involve the way in which you take a romantic view of work, rather than one that's oriented on specific goals, tangible achievements and a generally take-charge-now attitude. At the moment, you have the opportunity to evaluate both approaches in action, and make solid and lasting changes based on what you learn from direct experience.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Luck is not one of those things you typically take for granted. You seem to be in no mood to do so now, but at the same time, you also seem determined to have faith in the unseen and the unknown. Surely, your inspiration,

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willingness to take creative risks, and apparently boundless energy are all coming from somewhere, and that somewhere is a deep trust in existence. But luck is a kind of passive trust. You have the capacity to feel trust with gusto.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): Just because you may be reluctant to come to a particular conclusion or make a certain statement about what you want doesn't mean you're not going to do it. But I suggest you go one way or the other: reluctant or assertive. These days you seem to be hedging between the two and appear to be waiting for fate or a more compelling feeling to intervene. I strongly suggest you make up your own mind rather than letting it get made up for you. You have your answer; you just need to listen carefully, and with a little faith.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): This is the year that Saturn opposes Neptune, the planet least like itself. If you are feeling a lingering sense of unease or apprehension, it may involve this transit, which looms in the distance. Yet what are you really feeling? Is it some lack of certainty about the solid, concrete nature of the world? Is it the sense that you will be asked to compromise? Here is a clue: 'it' doesn't exist now and you are deciding what 'it' is as we speak. I suggest you talk to 'it' and make some decisions about your not-so-far-off distant future.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Okay, life could be easier. Chiron in your birth sign has been keeping you on edge and pushing you to a degree of self-consciousness that's uncomfortable even for one who thinks as much as you do. Yet from the look of your

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charts, clear and focused thinking is precisely the order of the day. You'll know you're really doing it when the things that are important to you today are a step ahead of those that were important to you yesterday. This is not the time to be resting on the laurels of yesterday's interesting philosophies.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): If you get the feeling that you're fighting yourself, take half a step to the left and look at your situation from a slightly different angle. The obstacle you may be facing is not really there, or it's not as thick as it looks — in fact, it's more like a projection in the fog. The solution is an idea, and it may be subtle; or it may be extremely innovative, but to take advantage of that you need to summon your ability to take ideas and gradually manifest them into reality — only this time, not so gradual. Something you thought was going to take a long time to come to fruition is actually poised to move a lot faster.

∞∞∞∞



Book Review

A Dazzling Family Saga

By Rachel Bard

“I exist! I am conceived to the chimes of midnight on the clock on the mantelpiece.”

So begins Kate Atkinson’s engaging novel about the life, family and times of Ruby Lennox, born and raised in York, England, mid-twentieth-century.

Fans of Laurence Sterne’s *Tristram Shandy* will pounce

with delighted recognition on this way to start a book. But Sterne’s first chapter rambles on for a page or so before reaching the parallel passage:

“Pray, my Dear,” quoth my mother, “have you not forgot to wind up the clock?” “Good G—!” cried my father. “Did ever woman, since the creation of the world, ever interrupt a man with such a silly question?” “Pray, what was your father saying?” “Nothing.”

And not until Sterne’s Chapter 5 is *Tristram* born, whereas by the end of Atkinson’s Chapter 2 her heroine is born and named:

“My name is Ruby. I am a precious jewel. I am a drop of blood. I am Ruby Lennox.”

Atkinson clearly admires Sterne (and bully for her), but she’s hit on a neater way to handle digressions. Whereas in *Tristram Shandy* the story wanders off in space and time at random, Atkinson inserts extended footnotes between her chapters to introduce characters and events in Ruby’s past. It’s gracefully and subtly handled. The most seemingly inconsequential item becomes a link between present and past: a button, a pair of boots, an old family photo.

Thus in Chapter 1 while Ruby is still unborn, her sister Gillian is “playing with her grandmother’s button box and chooses a button, a pink-glass, flower-shaped one (see Footnote (1)) and carefully and deliberately swallows it.”

The Footnote (1) chapter that follows takes the story back to Ruby’s pretty great-grandmother Alice and her hard life as the wife of a no-account farmer. The button plays a minor part: torn off Alice’s blouse by a fretful child, it ends up in a button-box, “and eventually from there to Gillian’s stomach of course, and from there—who knows?”

This ingenious pattern of juxtaposed present and past gives the reader three or four stories for the price of one. For three generations her female ancestors suffer difficult marriages, heartbreaking losses and still muddle through.

Back in the present, Ruby’s narrative moves briskly and hilariously along, a richly detailed, wryly observed account of the family’s life “above the Shop,” a pet shop in York. Through much of her young life she’s terrified by household ghosts who glide up and down stairs and comforted by

Teddy, her stuffed bear. Or when Teddy is feeling low she comforts him. “I tell him stories, stories that involve a lot of rescuing—Rapunzel, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, detailed episodes of Robin Hood in which I am Maid Marian, Teddy is Alan-a-Dale and Auntie Babs is the Sheriff of Nottingham. Or sometimes I am the Lone Ranger and Teddy does his passable imitation of Jay Silverheels.” Both of them mature. A few years later, during some family crisis, “I’m in my room, playing

Scrabble with myself while Teddy looks on forlornly, no longer able to join in now that he’s too old for all that role-playing.”

Ruby’s a rather lonely child in spite of being surrounded by a passel of sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles and her seldom compatible parents. She describes the dreadfulness, the eccentricities of her family but like Ruby, we can’t dislike them; they give us so much to laugh at that we forgive them their trespasses.

Eventually Ruby repeats the mistakes of her great grandmother, her grandmother and her mother, marrying a man who is definitely not Mr. Right. With a friend she goes to Edinburgh to “get experience,” after finishing university. Experience turns out to be a job as a hotel chambermaid. Her Mr. Wrong is the darkly handsome, black-haired Gian-Carlo Benedetti, son of the owner of an Italian restaurant she frequents. She marries him and they run a fish-and-chip shop in Forfar. “In so doing I condemned myself to some truly wretched years in which Gian-Carlo Benedetti’s charms melt into the air along with his fine cheekbones and radiant smile. Not only that, but he grows unattractively plump on all the chip-fat and acquires such a taste for grappa that sometimes I think about throwing a match at him to see if he’ll ignite like a well-doused Christmas pudding.”

Unlike her predecessors, she escapes, wiser but unharmed, after seven years. The marriage has given her three gifts: two beautiful nut-brown daughters, and proficiency in Italian. She finds an uncomplicated, satisfying late life as a translator of technical works into Italian in, of all places, the Shetland Islands.

When Ruby was a child she used to visit the Castle Museum in York, with its stuffed horses, period shops, carriages-and-fours, Victorian parlors. Once she’d dreamed of being in the museum at night when everything came to life. She found it much more interesting than the daytime museum and watched in fascination while fires flamed up in fireplaces and eighteenth-century harpsichords began to play. In this prize-winning novel Kate Atkinson takes us behind the scenes of one woman’s life to a Dickensian world teeming with jokes and tragedies. The museum may be imaginary but the drama and delightful fun of the book are very real indeed. ■■■■■

Behind the Scenes at the Museum, by Kate Atkinson. Paperback, Picador USA, \$14.00.




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We Have A Lot of Kids

By Kevin Pottinger

I love to cook, and in our house, I do almost all of the cooking. Consequently, we go out to eat a lot.

Before our first child was born, my wife Maria and I imagined that when the baby arrived we’d never be able to eat out again: we’d be stuck eating nothing but my cooking for the rest of our lives. The outlook was bleak. We were sure that when the baby came, if we ever did leave the house in search of a meal, we’d have to go to one of those clown-themed places for excitable children, or we’d have to wear paper hats, clap our hands and sing dumb cowboy songs with our waitress before we got served.

We assumed, in our new life as brand-new parents, that if we did manage a yearly visit to a real sit-down restaurant with our baby, we’d probably have to take a small out-of-the-way table by the door, and eat a few furtive bites before the baby would launch into a predictable red-faced screaming public tantrum. As we make our hasty exit with squeaking Styrofoam to-go boxes, we’d bravely ignore the clucking disapproval from the other patrons, and the hostess glaring at us as we hurried past, pulling on our coats, hot tears of shame streaming down Maria’s cheeks.

Yeah, so, none of that happened. When our first-born son Colin arrived, we went out to eat to celebrate and Colin slept in his car seat on the table between us. The kids got used to being in restaurants pretty quickly. It took Maria and me a little longer to get used to having them there.

Because I still do most of the cooking at our house, we still go out to eat fairly often. Fast food of all sorts, 24-hour places, Italian, Chinese, Mexican, Thai; we’ll eat in fancy places that have been favorably reviewed by snooty food critics, or greasy places I’ve been frequenting since I was in high school, where most of the wait staff, as well as everything on the menu, is fried.

Eating in a restaurant with little kids is not the same as eating alone

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or with other adults. With little kids, we need the food ordered and delivered pretty quickly. If not, they’ll scream. The kids will often lose interest in their dinner companions and start making eyes at the ladies seated at neighboring tables. They’ll pull the shades up and down and spill full glasses of ice water in our laps. They’ll grab whatever looks attractive from our plates, and stab our hands with their forks if we shoo them away.

While we wait for the food to arrive, we one-by-one remove all tabletop objects like the sugar packets, the salt and pepper shakers, the silverware, flowers, the red and green Tabasco, the water glasses, and we pry open the babies’ clenched jaws to take out the remains of the crayons they’ve been eating as colorful appetizers.

We always leave an unfortunate and horrific mess. There’s food everywhere, fallen to the floor, flicked on a fork, spilled from a glass, smeared with fingers, or fistfuls simply thrown in the air. Beans and rice, chewed-up French fries, dried ketchup, sticky noodles. There’s food all over the kids, on their faces, sleeves, in their hair, on the seats. When we get up to leave, more food that was lying hidden in the crevices of their clothing falls to the floor.

We usually give a nervous smile and apologize for the mess, and the only response we ever get, no matter where we are, is a gracious admonishment to “just leave it, we’ll clean it up.” It’s as if they’ve prepared for our arrival. There must be an informal network, or phone tree, or possibly a siren that goes off uptown, that lets them know we’re coming. ■■■■■


Women are not taught to withstand the consequences of self respect. -- *Rule of Thumb*, by D. Pierce



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Island Epicure



Cure for a Kitchen
Catastrophe, or,
The Fartless Bean

By Marj Watkins

Who has not turned a back on a pan of food only to smell it burning? Catch it soon enough and you can rescue the unburned part of the food before it absorbs the burned flavor. The easy way to deal with the pan is to soak it overnight. Sometimes you have to scrub off burned food, but sometimes it practically floats off.

If you can't wait 24 hours to use the pan again, add a quart or two of water, depending on the size of the pan. Toss in a couple of teaspoons of soda. Bring to a simmer, cover and let the food cook loose. It usually takes a couple of hours.

One day, back when we first started the Vashon Food Bank and were preparing to give out recipe cards and samples for people to taste, I burned a huge pan of beans cooking fifty servings. Beans take awhile to soak and cook; no way could I start over with new beans.

My good angel and assistant cook said, "Add some sugar. That will cut the burned taste." It did.

The important thing in such a rescue is to scoop out the unburned beans from the pan before the burned flavor seeps into them. Put them in another pan with water or stock and add enough sugar to cover any lingering burned taste, but not so much you overwhelm the bean flavor.

The important thing in cooking beans so they don't scorch is to make sure they always have plenty of water or stock on them.

For Fartless Beans:

Slightly sprout the dry beans: Soak them overnight in enough water to cover generously. Drain, let breathe for a few hours, give them a bath, drain again; repeat two or three times daily until sprouts appear. This magically turns dry

beans into fresh vegetables, much less likely to produce gas.

Bring to boiling in water to cover plus an inch or so. Reduce heat. Simmer ve-e-ery slow-ly with herbs savory and bay leaf, plus a dash or two of cumin or caraway seeds, until pin-prick tender. Add salt last 20 minutes of cooking.

Mash.

Canned beans: To un-gas them, add 1 teaspoon of ground cumin or 1/4 teaspoon caraway seeds per 14- to 16-ounce can. Bring to boiling, reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes.

Beano: Alternatively, a few drops per serving are recommended to take the farts out of any bean dish. But a little bottle of this magic potion will set you back bucks.

Bean Dip

To 1 cup cooked, mashed beans add 2 teaspoons salsa. Stir. Serve with corn chips.

Creamy Bean Soup

Serves 3 - 4. Cook in 1 cup chicken or vegetable stock: 1/2 cup finely chopped onion, 1 carrot (grated), and a dash of ground cloves. In 7 to 10 minutes, when vegetables are tender, add 1/2 teaspoon dried marjoram leaves or 1/2 Tablespoon fresh marjoram leaves, 2 tablespoons Madeira wine (optional), and 2 and 1/2 cups cooked beans with their liquid. Simmer a few minutes to marry flavors. Purée in blender or food processor. Distribute between soup bowls.

Note: 2 (14-ounce) cans of red beans or pinto beans may be used for this recipe.

Nutri-tip: Beans are an excellent source of Vitamins B and E, magnesium, iron, and protein. Eat them with whole-grain bread such as rye with sunflower seeds and you take in a complete set of essential proteins. Add cheese for calcium, and a tossed salad based on dark green lettuce or arugula or baby spinach and containing vine-ripe tomatoes for chlorophyll, Vitamin A and Vitamin C. Voila! A balanced, vegetarian meal.

When people see my cat's litter box, they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" Just once I want to say, "No, it's for company!"



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Madame
Toujours

Dear *Madame Toujours*,

My friend Amy has been married for twenty years to a loudmouthed jerk who is, it is not too much to say, a complete horse's rear. He is ignorant and opinionated and refuses to acknowledge that anybody could possibly know more than him about anything. You can't say anything around this guy without getting some ignorant diatribe.

Our social circle doesn't want to exclude Amy, but we can't convince her to leave Paul. She says he's really very kind and always ready to help a friend move or put in a garden, or just sit with an elderly relative, and we don't understand him.

Well, I say he can afford to do those things since he has never held a job and Amy has always supported him. How can we convince her to get rid of this jerk and find somebody with a more brains and less mouth?

Sincerely,
Concerned Friend

Chere Mme. ou Mlle. Friend,

Mostly, I am always advising everybody that if the friends, they are not liking the lover, then he is not the ornament to the life. However, you are perhaps overlooking the small points in *M. Paul's* favor. For example, to be rejecting the friend who is helping you to move is probably because you have not been moving recently. This is the unusually sterling quality in the friend. Possibly you can be learning to be overlooking the small brains and the enormous mouth by observing the equally engorged heart.

Naturally, you are thinking, "But *Madame Toujours*, he is the big,

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obnoxious jerk. How can I be overlooking this?"

Obviously, you should be asking the expert. *Mais non*, I am not speaking of myself. *Mme.* Amy is succeeding to overlook the obnoxiousness for twenty years. Clearly, she is having both the patience of the saints and the numerous tips and tricks for dealing with the obnoxious persons.


The first business is to inquire of *Mme.* Amy what is making the evening with the friends most pleasant to her. Possibly what you are not realizing is that after the evening of the quarrelsomeness and the obstreperous opinions, *M. Paul* is being so aroused that he is going home and performing heroically in the bedrooms. *Mme.* Amy is possibly considering that this is being worth the little discomfort to her friends. In this case, you can be learning to enjoy *M. Paul's* little outbursts. Make note of the favorite topics. Be sure to mention them frequently in his presence. Take turns with the friends entertaining *M. Paul* with the arguments. See how ridiculous you can prompt him to become. Or possibly you are encouraging the amusing party games such as "Pictionary" and "Clue" which are accommodating the loudly expressed opinions.

Bon Chance, Mme. ou Mlle. Friend. Possibly you are finding that *Mme.* Amy is preferring to keep *M. Paul* calm. This is the much easier task than you are supposing. Simply slip the little sedatives into the drink of *M. Paul* at the party, and everybody is having the very restful time.

ooooo

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Positively Speaking

By Deborah Anderson

Best Breast Forward

Those of you with marginally functioning parents or toxic parents in your history (and only those of you over thirty can truly define that) know that the time between Mother's Day and Father's Day can be heavy with contemplation. I have often joked that Hallmark needed to have a section for dysfunctional families. The cards would be laden with beautiful flowers and the usual sailboats at sunset, but say things like "I know you did the best you could. The scars are healing and I'm hoping to rise above it." Or..."When I think of the perfect family, I'm grateful the Lanski's lived down the street and I was able to visit a lot."

But here is a great truth about the dysfunctional family. There are still moments of love present. That is what is so confusing in growing away from it. What do we keep and what do we leave?

There are five great rules in those families: "Don't talk about what's really going on;" "Don't touch or express affection appropriately;" "Don't tell anyone else what's happening;" "Don't feel;" and, "Don't leave the family system."

If you break all those rules, people can get very angry. Break them anyway, lest you never know what it is to truly be alive.

I'm luckier than most. First of all, it wasn't until I was forty that I started to realize maybe I hadn't had the world's best childhood. For most of my life, I thought I had problems and everyone around me was perfect. It was better that way. Second, I had a faith to see me through the time of separation. Third, I had the education and experience and training to understand what was going on. And fourth, my mother got breast cancer.

If it hadn't been for the breast cancer, I might not have had one of the sweetest moments ever with my mom. When it metastasized to her brain, she fell while in the hospital and was medicated to alleviate the pain. In that drugged stupor, my mother revealed, in words, how great her love was for me. I never knew.

Parents were not taught how to be great parents in the old days. You took potluck and played the hand you were dealt with. Those were the circumstances when Mom was a child. She would tell me how she never heard her mother say one nice thing to her.

As she spoke the only words of compassion I ever heard her say, I wept for joy that I would not have to go her grave and imagine her speaking them to me.

Somehow the toxicity of the relationship overshadowed the breast cancer. An aunt (my father's much younger sister) stepped in to mother me and I just never really closed the relationship with mom.

Two weeks ago, I walked past the special display of Susan G. Komen hats at Thriftway, and, perhaps because I was finally able to deal with it or had the

pieces of my life arranged in my own mothering such that I could finally register, I looked at the pink ribbon on khaki and an explosion went off in my heart. "Wow" I said to myself. "Whatever my mom did to me, she sure didn't deserve breast cancer." I was a good daughter and had always wished the best for my mom. I remembered the words my stepfather spoke over the phone as we sat down to Thanksgiving dinner almost twenty years ago. "Your mother didn't want to tell anyone, but she's in the hospital and she's just had a lump removed." I remembered her holding my newborn daughter the following year and saying wistfully, "I wonder how old you will be when I die."

I picked up the hat and bought myself a mother's day present. I bought a connection to my mother that she paid for with her life. When the radiologist told me the year after my mother died that because she contracted breast cancer after menopause, my chances were the same as everyone else's, I had somehow shelved the connection. Now as I tossed the hat into my cart, that connection was the one that reminded me how much I loved my mother.

You see, when you're dealing with family of origin issues, there is a desert one passes through where the good is obfuscated by the bad. It's very important to sink deeply into the bad, so we can deal with the reality of it. During that time, all good is lost. But the fact is I loved my mother dearly, which is why it took until I was forty to get to my stuff without any rebellion on my part.

Now, I'm done with dealing. I will begin to work for the cause of the eradication of breast cancer because no woman ever deserves breast cancer; neither the worst nor the best mother in the world, or anyone in between.

My point may seem to drift as you read this. I have several points.

If you have stuff to deal with about your parents, don't be afraid of it. Face it, call it what it is and claim the part that hurt you so you can heal. "Pretend" never bought anyone anything but a trouble. We don't honor our parents by pretending they were something they weren't.

Keep moving through the stuff so you can reach the point where you remember you are a loving person, remembering there is something to love about every person.

Lastly, I say: Whatever you can do to help find the cure, or the vaccines, for cancer, do it.

Happy Mother and Father's Day.

~~~~~

Panache Double Bill Concert  
Piano & Cello with  
Scott Cossu and Jami Sieber  
Saturday, June 3, 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$12/\$15  
Includes hors d'oeuvres & champagne

See Story on Page 18

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## Film Flam Soccer Movies That Kick

By Jonathan Shipley

Now that the World Cup is upon us (GOOOOOOAAAAALLLLLLLLLL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!), a time in which Americans revel in all things soccer (World Cup? In Germany? Huh? What the heck are you talking about?), it's time to highlight some of the best soccer-themed movies of all time. To get you in the mood before you watch a long game of the vaunted Cote d'Ivoire team versus Serbia and Montenegro, slip one of these fine films in your DVD player. It should be a goal of yours. GOOOOOOAAAAALLLLLLLLLL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Goal!**(2005): Director of such classics as *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer* and *Judge Dredd*, Danny Cannon has come out with a passable soccer movie, now in theaters. *Goal!* is the story of Santiago, who dreams of becoming a professional footballer (football is soccer to us Americans. Football? Huh? Soccer? Wha?), living in the City of Angels. He tries out for Newcastle United. Inspiring!

**Hooligans** (2005): Get this - Elijah Wood as a soccer hooligan. Really, nothing more needs to be said.

**Bend It Like Beckham** (2002): It was this movie that American audiences got to revel in all things Keira Knightley for the first time. Sure she was in a couple of bad movies before this movie, but it was this film that propelled her to whom she is today, i.e. a person for cinema-going men of all ages to ogle over. Oh yes, they ogle. The story is primarily about an East Indian girl (Parminder Nagra) who wants to play soccer, much to the chagrin of her prim and proper parents. It's got giggles. It's got soccer. It's got Keira Knightley!

**Shaolin Soccer**(2001): With a tag line, "Kick some grass!" you know that *Shaolin*

*Soccer* is a movie for the ages, and is it ever! Written, directed, and starring Stephen Chow (of *Hong Kong Shuffle* fame. If you haven't watched *Hong Kong Shuffle* you're in sad shape. *Hong Kong Shuffle* is one the weirdest/greatest mobster/action/comedy/kung fu movies you'll ever see), *Shaolin Soccer* is a movie that is the best of all things soccer and all things, uh, kung fu. Yes, a kung-fu master teaches five brothers to play soccer and they enter a tournament with a 1 million dollar prize! Who will win the prize? Who will kick some grass?!

**Carrott Gets Rowdy**(1980): Yeah, you heard right. Carrott gets rowdy in this documentary where British comedian Jasper Carrott looks at American soccer from a British perspective. He follows the Tampa Bay Rowdies, a soccer team. Never heard of 'em? Not even people in Tampa Bay have heard of 'em. No matter, Carrott gets rowdy, none-the-less.

**Victory** (1981): Honestly, the best soccer movie ever filmed. Seriously. Starring Pele (the one and only), Sylvester Stallone (the other one and only), and Michael Caine (one of only one), under the direction of the famous John Huston, *Victory* is the story of a soccer match between Allied prisoners of war and the Nazi officers who rule over them. The Nazis plan on winning, of course. The prisoners plan on escaping from camp. Who will win? Who will get caught? Who will escape? Only people who have watched *Victory* know the answers! And, well, those that were in the film and those who made the film know, too, but that goes without saying.

### Green Party June Events

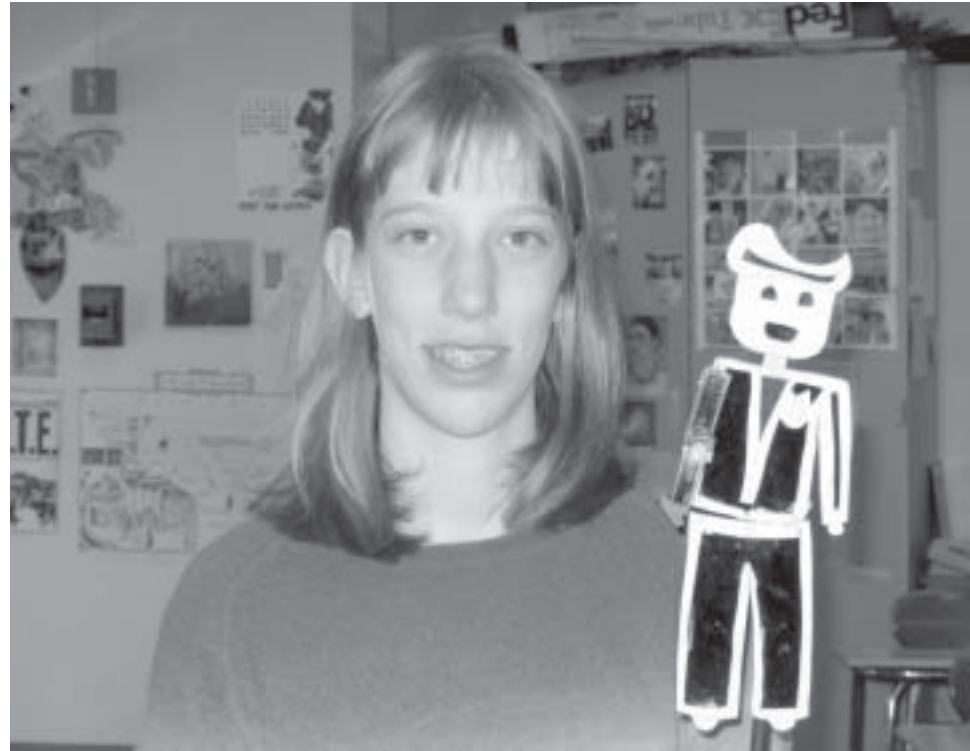
The next Green Party meeting will be **June 12, 7 p.m.**, at the Asher residence, 15120 Westside Highway. For further information, please contact Ivy Sacks at 463-9579 or Ivys@centurytel.net

The Progressive Book Club will hold its monthly meeting at the Vashon Tea Shop on **Sunday, June 25**, at 2:00 p.m. This month's selection is *A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* by Eckhart Tolle, a contemporary spiritual teacher not aligned with any particular religion or tradition. For more information, call Maryrose Asher at 567-0593 or e-mail dmasher@comcast.net.

Progressive/Green Party Film & Discussion Series will be held on **Thursday, June 8** at 6:30 p.m. at Café Luna. June's film is *Seven Days in May* (rated NR, 118 minutes). *Synopsis: A Military aide stumbles across a plot by his boss to overthrow the U.S. President.* Director John Frankenheimer. Classic movie with classic actors. Admission is Free!



# Loop ~ Sports



Whoa, who could forget when Caitlin Z-W provided yeoman's work at the Vashon International Shadow Puppet Festival with her most zealous of game show hosts, "The Wrong Guy Guy," inspired by the pros at BBC News. My pick for #4-A. Another fine Scratchy Lens photo.

## Top Seven Sports Moments of the Year According to Ernest

7. The Freight Train Gateman's performance at the Tri-State tournament in Idaho. He just rolled everyone over as if they were fried bread, and he was, well, a freight train. They are still talking about it at the Burlington Northern headquarters.

6. Jennifer Osgood's speech about sports at the school board meeting. I was there, and I would hafta say that her speech was the best of the night. She made all the points that I would have liked to have made but am not smart enough to make. You can catch it on my podcast: [www.ernestpodcast##.com](http://www.ernestpodcast##.com)

5. The girls soccer trip to Italy. I know it was last year, but I'll still include it for this year, because it was so sweet. The best part was when Coach Beba accidentally ordered a fried pig ear, thinking it was pasta.

4. The performance by Mikhail Abdul Latif and Ryan Mattingly at the NAIA nationals. I heard about this a couple months ago, and am still super amped, months later. It's not too often that two Vashon graduates have success at the national level in the same year, is it?

3. M.J. Sohl's catch in that one football game. I close my eyes and can still see it: the ball, floating in the air forever, and M.J., sprinter *extraordinaire*, flying under it, catching it with the style and grace of a panda bear. Even though he

was called out of bounds, I'm not sure if he really was, and it was still really sweet.


2. The dance routine by those three guys in the Best of Open Mic. I just saw this last night and have trouble getting over the fact that those guys aren't professional dancers. When we see them backing up J-Lo on MTV in a year or two we can say that we saw them before they were famous, at the Vashon High School Theater.

1. The boys' basketball entire season. After much deliberation, I couldn't find an actual moment—since there were so many of them—so I hafta go with the whole season. Between Andrus' steady-as-she-goes MVP year, Davis' death-defying high-wire act, Amstrup's not-on-my-watch blocks and Coach Sears' clipboard-shatterings, I couldn't pick one. The whole team will receive a free veggie six-inch sub to share, from your friend Ernest.



Popeye remains smiling, even after not making Ernie's Top Sporting Moments. "More spinach," he claimed, "and I'll cut out the bacon, cheese, hamburger, and ranch dressing that I usually add to my famous spinach salad. Maybe then I have a chance of beating Mike (Domin)Ates out for the last VHS Varsity Basketball slot."

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# Loopy Laffs

Nobody can be so amusingly arrogant as a young man who has just discovered an old idea and thinks it is his own.—Sydney J. Harris

A sheet of sandpaper makes a cheap and effective substitute for costly maps when visiting the Sahara desert.

No one should live by the early bird policy without finding out whether he classifies as a bird or a worm.

Have you heard about On and on and on Anon? It's the self-help group for compulsive talkers.

.....

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools talk because they have to say something. —Plato

When my brother said, “Amen,” after grace one night, one of his children asked what “amen” meant. Before he or his wife could answer, their five-year-old responded, “It means ‘send’.”

One-Liners (more or less)

Gentlemen prefer bonds.

Innocence is a lousy defense.

Is your holier side your altar ego?

I stay in shape—pear is a shape, isn't it?

A healthy horse requires a stable environment.

No matter how much you do, you never do enough.

When your dreams turn to dust, it's time to vacuum.


A halo only has to fall a few inches to become a noose.

It now costs more to amuse a child than it did to educate his father.

I didn't say it was your fault—I said I was going to blame it on you.

If God had intended for us to vote, He would have given us candidates.

Your ears grow about .0087 of an inch each year.



It's only an older Islander who knows the difference between 'pert' near' and 'a right far piece.'

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one, so, I'm wearing my garage door opener.

I've come to realize that the secret to a happy life is not looking like Barbie or Ken and suffering through tofu and rice cakes to stay that way! It's eating chocolate, staying chunky and explain that you're really a perfect size 6, but you keep it covered with fat so it doesn't get scratched!

A husband visited a marriage counselor and said, "When we were first married, I would come home from the office, my wife would bring my slippers and our cute little dog would run around barking. Now after ten years it's all different. I come home, the dog brings the slippers and my wife runs around barking."

"Why complain?" said the counselor, "You're still getting the same service."

.....

My host gave me a glass of wine and I immediately dropped it on the rug. Which proves that I can't hold my liquor.

.....

**Just once, when someone says "How are you" (without really wanting to know), I'd like to say "Well, I can't keep my teeth in, I pee myself every time I laugh, my hair is falling out, I cannot see where the heck I'm going most of the time, my back hurts and I pass gas every time I sneeze (and I feel like sneezing right now)! Just once.**

Important computer acronym: PCMCIA. Stands for, "People can't memorize computer industry acronyms."

## CROSSWORD

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## OFFSHORE



Panel 1: "WE GOTTA DELIVER THIS BUCKET OF CLAMS TO BUSTER'S JAIL AND DELICATESSEN, BOYS. WHY DON'T YA COME ALONG?" "THANKEE, BILLY, BUT OUR SHIP IS AGROUND ON THE ROCKS, YONDER."

Panel 2: "WE MAY SHAKE HER LOOSE AT HIGH TIDE IF WE TIME IT RIGHT." "HAR HAR! YOU MUST BE TALKIN' ABOUT ISLAND TIME!"

Panel 3: "NEVER IN LIFE! ISLAND TIME IS RELAXED AND APPROXIMATE, WHEREAS TIDES ARE PUNCTUAL AND WAIT FOR NO ONE!" "DO TELL! IN THAT CASE, MAYBE YER WATCH IS JUST SLOW."

Panel 4: "HIGH TIDE WAS OVER HALF AN HOUR AGO!" "SPRING!!"

## LOGJAM



BY JEFF HAWLEY



Panel 1: "I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I SPROUTED INTO THE WORLD. ...WHAT A FOOL..."

Panel 2: "THE HORRIBLE TRUTH IS... THERE HSN'T REALLY MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THIS LIFE"

Panel 3: "THINK OF IT - ROOTED IN ONE STUPID SPOT FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS!"

Panel 4: "SWEET INNOCENCE OF YOUTH"

No "Dad and Boy" this issue. Tooner Jeremy Gregory is preparing a show titled "Seven Deadly Sins" which will open June 1, at 6 p.m., at Ace Studios Art Gallery, 619 Western Ave. in Seattle.



Loop Arts

## Ericksen and LaMar to Perform June 9 with String Quartet

Some of Vashon’s most accomplished musicians will come together in a free concert on **Friday, June 9**, at 7:30 p.m. Vashon United Methodist Church. The concert will feature sopranos Marita Ericksen and Sharon LaMar who will sing selections from *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi and three a cappella pieces by J. S. Bach.



Sharon LaMar

who lives in M a n s o n , Washington, have been singing together for more than 20 years. They will perform the *Stabat Mater* again in July at the Lake Chelan Bach Festival as part of that organization’s 25th anniversary celebration. “This is kind of a sneak preview as well as a ‘we’re-glad-to-be-back’ concert for all of our Vashon friends,” said Ericksen.

They will be accompanied by violinists Gretchen Woods and Sarah Perlman, violist Gaye Detzer, and cellist David Bartus.

Ericksen, who recently moved back to Vashon with her husband John, and LaMar,



Marita Ericksen

## Sing the “Pops”

Vashon Island Chorale is seeking singers interested in joining the group for the annual summer “pops” concert at Ober Park on **Friday, July 7**. The 7 p.m. concert is part of the music program for Strawberry Festival and is free to the Vashon audience. Rehearsals take place on June 26, 27, 29 and July 5 and 6 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the VHS band room. Dues are \$25 plus music costs. Voices for the tenor and bass sections are especially needed. David Kappy directs the Chorale and Kelly Wyse will provide accompaniment.

For information or to sign up, contact Jo Ann Bardeen, 567-5841 or jbardeen@yahoo.com.

## Chalkwalk Art Event Saturday June 3

By Lynann Politte

Have you ever walked a street in New York or even Rome where there are incredible pieces of art chalked on the sidewalks? On **June 3** the sidewalks of Vashon will become canvases for over 20 local Vashon artists and their original artwork in the medium of chalk. The Vashon Community Chalkwalk Art Event (a Chamber of Commerce sponsored event) is a community art show which enlists artists to create original sidewalk pieces, all sponsored by local businesses. This year’s beneficiary of the event is The Madrona School.

Early **Saturday June 3 (June 17 in the event of rain)**, the artists will commence their work, transforming the sidewalks of town center, Vashon business on adjacent roads and businesses further along Vashon Highway into a walkable art show. Local businesses are sponsoring the artist’s work created in front of their location. Businesses without a town



Photo by George Heidorn

## Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert: Haydn, Hovhaness, Elgar, and Bach

By Anni Larsen

Join the Vashon-Maury Chamber Orchestra for its Spring Concert **Saturday, June 3**, 7:30 p.m. at the Vashon Methodist Church.

The program pairs the 18th century greats Haydn (*Symphony No. 19*) and Bach (*Double Concerto for Two Violins*) with 20th century composers Hovhaness (*Psalms and Fugue op. 40a*) and Elgar (*Serenade for Strings op. 20*). Also included is a piece by local composer Will Ayton (*Reflections on Ein’Reste Burg*), written for the centennial celebration of the Vashon Lutheran Church in 2003.

What brings such diverse works together for this enchanting program? Resonating harmony and captivating melody. Fear not the 20th century; tonality has survived. Soloists for the Bach piece are Vashon resident Gretchen Woods and Conductor Jonathan Graber. Concertmaster is Mary Walker. Tickets will be available at the door, \$7 for adults, \$5 for kinds under 16.



Left to right: Keli Van Holde, Brooke Pringle, Chelsea Wagner. Photo by Kathleen Webster

## Dance! Vashon Presents Peter and the Wolf and Fantasia

By Sally Leonhardt

Dance! Vashon’s spring production of *Peter and The Wolf* and *Fantasia* does not require a “may cause flashbacks” warning – but you will find it to be one of your best trips ever! Four performances are scheduled, on **Friday, June 2**, 7:30 p.m.; **Saturday, June 3**, 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 pm; and **Sunday, June 4**, 1:30 p.m.

Under the direction of Cheryl Krown, over one hundred students of Vashon Dance Academy will interpret the classic Prokofiev symphony as well as diverse music from Beethoven to the Beach Boys. Thematically linked by the music, dances and dancers of the two works mesh. Each character in *Peter and The Wolf* represents an instrument: Graham Peet is Peter, (representing “strings”) and Mark Lacina is the wolf (french horn). Also featured

are Nelle Horseley as the bird (flute), Aleythea Dolstad as the cat (clarinet) and Laura Hicks as the duck (oboe). The score calls for baby ducks, a dancing meadow, a lively pond and an imaginative rope, plus some elements too exciting to mention!

Each dancer in *Fantasia* - including seasoned dancers Aaron Bergman, Aleythea Dolstad, Anne Dulfer, Genevieve Ferrari, Laura Hicks, Claire Hesselgrave, Nelle Horsley, and Heather Sorter — is a literal dream interpreter, animating music through dance much like animators use pens. It is a trip! Between the excellent choreography (which often is a collaboration between Krown and her students), incredible costumes, and the superb talent of dancers ages three to “blank-three,” you will be transported beyond the Vashon High School Theatre, beyond the Island, to a place of wonder and delight. And, for some of us, to a beautiful flashback.

Dance! Vashon is a non-profit organization that features the dancers of Vashon Dance Academy and provides dance opportunities to all Islanders through dance events and scholarships.

Tickets are now available at Books By The Way and also at the door on the day of performance. Adults: \$9, Children (Under-18): \$8. Dance! Vashon’s performances are usually sell-out events; the best at-the-door ticket availability is for the Saturday matinee.

## Cossu and Sieber Play Heron Double Bill

By Janice Randall

What better way to celebrate the coming of our wonderful Northwest summer than with a piano/cello double bill featuring internationally known performing/recording artists Scott Cossu and Jami Sieber? The pair will play together and solo **Saturday, June 3**, 8 pm, at Blue Heron Art Center. Tickets are available now at Blue Heron, Heron’s Nest and Vashon Island Music.

Pianist/composer/recording artist Scott Cossu offers a world-music influenced sound that ranges from high energy to contemplative. With nearly a dozen recordings to his credit, Cossu recorded under the Windham Hill label for more than a decade and most recently with Alula Visions.

Electric and acoustic cellist/vocalist Jami Sieber reaches inside the soul with her contemporary, evocative compositions. A celebrated pioneer of her instrument, she earned the Northwest Area Music Association (NAMA) Award for Best Rock Instrumentalist, no easy feat for a cellist.



Jami Sieber

## Friends with Money Poseidon Adventure

May 24-25

12:01 a.m. Friday May 26  
**X-Men Last Stand**

X-Men will play  
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May 26-June 8

Friday, May 26, is  
The Vashon  
Theater’s 59th  
Birthday!



(It’s also the birthday of the editor of The Loop, but that’s an unlisted number.)

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Scott Cossu

In addition to her three independent CD releases, and numerous film and television scores, Sieber collaborates with poet Kim Rosen to create Poetry Concerts and Workshops. Calling on her past health care experience, Sieber recently joined midwife to the dying Judith Redwing Keyssar, RN, to provide music during *Being With Dying* Workshops.



Plan Now To Attend

Vashon Idyll III

Friday June 2nd

6:30 pm

Vashon High School Gymnasium

Admission \$5.00

Includes hors d'oeuvres 1 free drink and 5 votes



**VAA Garden Tour**  
**June 10 and 11**  
By Janice Randall and Terry Hershey  
*Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful: they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul.* – Luther Burbank

Vashon Allied Art's 16th annual Garden Tour will take place **Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11**, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are available now. This year's tour will feature five gardens, from peaceful sanctuaries to cacophonies of color. In addition to nature's beauty, gardens will feature art by Island artists, live music and poetry readings. Thank you to Presenting Sponsor, John L. Scott, Gardens Sponsor, Vashon Thriftway and Cultivator Sponsor, DIG.

The Gardens:  
**Sam and Sarah Van Fleet's garden** offers sanctuary for people, plants, birds and animals. The central feature is a pond brimming with life (plant life, pond life, and 25 new species of birds) and surrounded by many native plants. This garden emphasizes plant textures, and beds appear like tapestries of soothing green. Garden Sculpture by Steve Zartman.

Most Islanders know the "**red-roofed-chicken-farm**" off Monument Road. Owner Judith Henderson has created a cottage-style English garden stuffed to the gills with perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs and groundcovers, making the space reminiscent of another era. Steve Roach will show ceramic fountains and Jon Lucas will show wooden birds.

Now called **Faerie Hill Farm**, the sheer scale of the Lipitz place hits you. A working farm, it includes gardens of berries, sheep grazing, and fields of green. See metal sculpture by Julie Berger and wood sculpture by Mike Urban.

Color hits you immediately in the lively, intimate five-year-old **waterfront garden** of Sally Ann Williams. Williams made the design decision to incorporate the garden as an extension of the house. Sitting in the courtyard, with its wonderful arbor and perimeter fence, it is clear that this garden is about fun and joy. George Wright will display her arden gates and Carolyn Price Dyer will show tapestry work.

Lyn and Nick call it their **Friendship Garden**. Nearly 100% of the plants in the comforting garden are from cuttings collected over the years from friends. It reminds us that meticulously organized gardens are vastly overrated. Garden sculpture by David Erue. Hear poetry in the garden, ready by Island poets, between noon and 2 p.m. both days.

Workshops and more: Free workshops, both Saturday and Sunday at the Blue Heron will provide inspiration and practical tips. Author Terry Hershey will present *Designing a Garden that is a Reflection of You* and garden writer Debra Prinzing will speak on *Creating a Garden of Abundance*. Jon Crouch, Landscape Designer & Owner of English Landscapes Group, will offer a mini-workshop on *Planting Your Pond* both Saturday and Sunday at the Van Fleet Pond.

For more information and to reserve Garden Tour tickets by phone, call the Blue Heron Art Center, 463-5131. Tickets also available at DIG and Thriftway. See you at Garden Tour!



**Short and Sweet at Folklife**

Vashon Duo Short & Sweet, composed of Robyn Landis and Steve Amsden, will appear this weekend at the Northwest Folklife Festival, which is held at the Seattle Center. They'll be playing on **Sunday, May 28**, starting at 6:20 p.m. at the Cafe Impromptu in McCaw Hall.

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**Vashon Island Technologies: I Want People to Know We're Here**

"I want people to know we're here," says Matt Mosteller, owner of Vashon Island Technologies (VIT) and computer guy par excellence.

"I tell people that we're the store right in the middle of town with the 20 foot sign out front that says, 'COMPUTERS,'" Mosteller says, "but most people don't figure it out until I say, 'Across the street from Movie Magic.'"

"We're kinda the 7-11 of computer stores," he continued. "We stock what people ask for. If we don't have it, we can order it. People comment that our pricing is in line with industry pricing."

As opposed to "Island pricing?" Well, yeah.

How did I write two columns about buying a computer without mentioning VIT? Ironically enough, because Matt helped me the first time my laptop developed electrical problems. I took my laptop in and after trying a new power cord and adapter and realizing that wasn't the problem, Matt sent me to Seattle Laptop. When the problem started to happen again, I went straight to Seattle Laptop. Ironically, again, VIT now sells and services laptops as well as desktop computer systems.

V I T started back in the early 90s. The business has evolved, but, Mosteller says, "We're still building the best computers in the world."

What I'm proudest of is our professionalism. We primarily do business networking services. The retail shop is for the convenience of the community. We like selling computers, but service is our business. If you buy a computer somewhere else, we'll provide your local repairs and support. We're the only guys on the Island committed to being here 365 days a year, with inventory on hand."

So now you know. If you want "the best computer in the world," head up to VIT. If you need work done on that great CPU you scored on craigslist, take it up to Matt and Greg. They're here.



Matt Mosteller



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