

Thanksgiving Issue! What do you have to be thankful about? Concerts! Concerts! Concerts! A Great Job Offer for the Right Person, Fair Trade Downtown, Santiago Atitlan, Books, Moussaka, Sports Schedules, New Comic Strip, Grace, Gratitude, Grief, and More!



Fran Gordon
Page 9



Sylann, Sierra, and Carl Learn to Earn
Page 15



Charlie Brown Christmas
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THE VASHON LOOP

Vol. 3, # 24 TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM November 22, 2006



Karen du Four des Champs explains potential course ideas while instructor Kevin Freeman looks on. Loop photo

Vashon 101: It's a Wrap

Vashon College's first course offering, Vashon 101, had its last session on Sunday, November 12, at the Courthouse on the Vashon Highway.

Class members gathered a final time to review the experience, brainstorm future course ideas, and, finally, graduate from this inaugural venture. Then we all had cake and punch.

Students were able to learn more about each other than they had in previous class sessions, and many people expressed the wish to get to know each other even more, an indication of the bonding that took place in the group over the weeks of the course.

College President Tom Bangasser tried to give credit where credit was due to everyone who had contributed to the formation of the course and the College in any way.

Vashon 101 will be offered again in the Spring, for a tuition of \$250. "The College will begin to try to pay its own way, rather than relying on the generosity of friends as it has so far," said Todd Milton.

No More Charlie Brown Tree!



OK, so we're not solving world hunger, but we are going to have a tall, conical, fully lit tree for this year's holiday festivities. Keep watching.

Vashon Art Studio Tour Holiday 2006

By Christine Beck

Holiday 2006 opens its doors the weekends of **December 2 and 3** and **9 and 10**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at forty-two studios located all around the Island. Each studio on the tour is a jewel, dressed in holiday finery to welcome visitors, both on- and off-Island, and none more so than the group shows that have developed over the years. Combining the talents of various artists, frequently working in multiple mediums, the group shows display some of the finest artwork the Island has to offer with some of these groups having up to 20 artists on display- and for sale- in one location!

42 Count Them! 42 (The Meaning of Life) Studios on the Holiday Art Studio Tour December 2 & 3, 9 & 10 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Leaf Man by Mary Wachter will be at Quartermaster Press Studio, #35 on the Art Studio Tour ~ Courtesy Photo

The group shows this year include (from North to South), In Good Company, Barnworks, Quartermaster Press, POV (Photographers of Vashon), Mary Hosick with Fresh Paint, and Waterworks Studio. Lastly and the oldest tour entrant is the Potters Tour, one of the biggest, if loosest, groups on the tour and showing at various studios on the Island. A tour guide (available at Island businesses and online at www.vashonislandartstudiotour.com) is essential to navigating and enjoying all the studios on the tour.

Continued on page 19

Holiday Markets December 2 and 9



There will be two more Vashon Holiday Markets at the Village Green Saturday December 2 and Saturday December 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Stroll by to find unique gifts for others and yourself. These events are sponsored by the Vashon Farmers Market. Photo by Ralph F. Moore

Island Jobs Lost Sound Food Contract with Ferries Terminated

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Washington State Ferries (WSF) announced last week the termination of the onboard food service contract with Sound Food Café, Bakery & Wine Bar, effective December 31, 2006. Sound Food has provided food service on the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route since October 2004.

"I feel bad for the loss of jobs," said Sound Food owner Bill Dorn.



Bill Dorn, one of the owners of Sound Food Cafe. "Reporters and employees started calling..." Loop photo

"The people on the boats and the people in the restaurant worked really hard to make this work. The sad part is that the business had been growing and we were actually beginning to make a profit."

Dorn said that all boat employees will be let go, and there will be some layoffs in the restaurant as well.

So what happened?

In the press release, Mike Anderson, WSF Executive Director said, "We cannot ignore the concessionaire's unilateral withholding of a portion of their fees, in direct conflict with the concession agreement as well as unresolved issues in the concessionaire's accounting practices."

Dorn explained, "The Evergreen State was on the north end run for 36 days last spring. It has no galley. Well, it has a galley, but it's

Continued on page 4

Get in The Loop

VashonBePrepared.ORG

"Using the "Island Channel" is a way for islanders to communicate with each other in an emergency. Cut out this card for your bulletin board, refrigerator, or wallet and make copies for friends and family."

And put the VashonBePrepared site URL on there somewhere, too. That is:
www.VashonBePrepared.org

ISLAND CHANNEL

Citizen's Band - Channel 2

Marine VHF - Channel 71

FRS/GMRS - Channel 2
(462.5875 MHz - turn Privacy Codes OFF)

Are your batteries fully charged?

The "Island Channel" is a common channel number on CB, Marine, and "walkabout" Family Radio Service (FRS) and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radios. Use the Island Channel year-round. When emergencies occur you'll know where to listen and how to use your radio.

Note 1 - Using an FRS/GMRS radio on the GMRS channels requires an FCC license.

Note 2 - Use marine channel 71 only as a "go to" channel. Monitor channel 16 at all other times. Use Marine VHF only for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications.

Note 3 - Not all FRS/GMRS radios assign Channel 2 to the same frequency. Check your radio's manual for the frequencies assigned to each channel.


Mark your calendar for:

New Years Eve

December 31st

9:00 pm

Vashon Sportsmen's Club



Email: loose-change@comcast.net

Fruit Preserver's Club Meets

The first meeting of the Vashon Island Fruit Preserver's Club will be at the Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 5**. If you want to see more of our Island's fruit used and enjoyed by Island residents, then come hear about this idea! You do NOT need to know how to can, enjoy canning, or want to learn how to can! This club will meet the needs of everyone in the food loop, from grower to picker to preserver to consumer. There is a place for you in this club...we hope to see you! Questions? Call March @ 463-0870.

Ryther Holiday Dinner and Auction

The Quartermaster Unit of the Ryther Child Center League will hold its annual fund-raising dinner and auction event at the Vashon Island Country Club on Friday, December 8, at 6 p.m.

The festive evening features an elegant meal and highlights the spirit of giving to the children and families in the Puget Sound area. In operation since 1883, the Center has come to symbolize hope, healing and love to countless young people.

Tickets are \$60 per person. For information or reservations, call Betty Lou Biggs at 463-3129.

Report on Muckleshoot Shellfish Project

Monday December 18, 7:30 p.m., at the Courthouse Square, shellfish biologist Andy Dalton will present an update on the Muckleshoot Tribe's shellfish enhancement project. He will show photographs taken over the last few years at the Tribe's Vashon property and tidelands.

Bicycle Safety Up for Discussion

The Public Safety Committee of the Vashon Maury Island Community Council will meet at the Courthouse at 10 a.m. on **Friday, December 1**, to discuss bicycle safety issues on the Island. Road shoulder improvements, children riding to school, and visiting groups of cyclers are some of the matters that will be addressed. If you are unable to attend and want to contribute your thoughts call Jennie Hodgson at 463-5408 or email jollyoctopus@comcast.net. The Island group of cyclers, the Spokespeople, will be asking the Community Council to vote for a list of improvements on our roads to send to King County for inclusion in the budget at the December 18 meeting of the Community Council at the Courthouse at 7:30 p.m. Any Island resident 18 years of age or older is eligible to vote at Community Council meetings.

2007 Medicare Choices

Highline Medical Services Organization will offer an informational seminar on the Island regarding 2007 Medicare Complete Health plans, and, more specifically, the Secure Horizons Medicare Advantage plans being offered for 2007. There are three options and Medicare beneficiaries have until December 31, 2006 to select their plan for 2007. The seminar will be held on **Tuesday, December 12**, at 10 a.m. at Court House Square, 19001 Vashon Highway. Please call (206) 249-0334, or email: bjennings@HighlineMedical.org with questions.

Do You Have Water Damage?

The King County Office of Emergency Management Information is looking for anyone with water damage from recent storms. The County will use these figures to try to reach a total that will allow for financial aid to flood victims. Damage Assessment Hotline is 1-800-523-5044; ask to speak to Jessica regarding water damage.

I know not, sir, whether Bacon wrote the words of Shakespeare, but if he did not it seems to me he missed the opportunity of his life. -- James Barrie

2007 VIPP Calendar Now Available!

The Vashon Island Pet Protectors 2007 Pet Calendar is now available for \$15 at the following locations: The Vashon Bookshop, Fair Isle Animal Clinic, Pandora's Box, The Burton Store & Books by the Way. The Vipp 2007 Calendar is sponsored by: Susan Carrette-Windermere Realtor, Dee Weedon, Reliable Wines, The Old Fuller Store (Macrina Bakery & Francisco's Barbershop), Pandora's Box & Amiad & Associates Real Estate.

Adopt-A-Cat Days

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will host two Adopt-A-Cat Day **Saturdays, on December 9 and 16**, from 12:30 to 3p.m. at Pandora's Box. Please stop by or call VIPP 206-389-1085.

VIPP Holiday Bake Sale

Saturday, December 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., stop by our table outside of Thriftway to purchase an array of goodies from some of the Island's best bakers. If you'd like to help with the baking, please drop off your tightly wrapped baked goods after 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Call Victoria 463-5381 for more information.

See Movie! Eat Popcorn!

Enjoy a feature-length surprise video: comedy? Romance? Musical?

All of the above? Take a chance, have fun with your friends — not for seniors only — at the Senior Center **Wednesday, November 29**, 12:30 p.m., free!

Santa's Breakfast at Back Bay Inn


Santa's Breakfast will be **Saturday, December 16**, at the Back Bay Inn, from 8 to 10 a.m. Cost per child is \$20.00, which includes breakfast by Chef Curtis, an art cookie project, a digital photo with Santa, stories, songs by the Youth Chorus, and lots more fun! Make your reservations today by calling the Back Bay Inn at 463-5355. This year they are only doing one seating, so space is limited.



Courtesy photo

Santa at Open House

Santa and his Number One best helper, Mrs. Santa, will greet "favorite people of all ages" at the Senior Center Holiday Open House on **Friday, December 1**, 5 to 7 p.m. Please pass the gingerbread men.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, December 1**

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Featured Adoptable Cat



Dahlia, as you can see, is a lovely, expressive, young female. She is looking for the one(s) who will give her the love and attention on which this dramatic girl thrives. VIPP# 726 For more information on this or any of our other cats (or if you have a lost or found animal), please e-mail us at cats@vipp.org or call (206) 389-1085.

Families, Friends and Caregivers Organize

An organizational meeting for caregivers, families, and friends of schizoeffective, schizophrenia, bipolar, Post Traumatic Stress, chronic depression, and similar mood disorders will begin on **Wednesday, November 27**, 7:30 p.m. at the Vashon Presbyterian church. Additionally, NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) has a Family to Family class that we would love to bring to the Island. Please call if you are interested in the Family to Family class or if you need more information about the support group. Call Sally Knutson at 463-2466.

The Vashon Loop

- Writers: Kathy Abascal, Deborah Anderson, Rachel Bard, Marie Browne, Eric Francis, Fran Gordon, Troy Kindred, Melissa McCann, Orca Annie, Kevin Pottinger, Rex Morris, Weslie Rodgers, Jonathan Shipley, Ed Swan, Mary L. Tuel, Marj Watkins
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- Deal with it.
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- **Subscribe to The Loop!**
- \$50 a year gets The Loop delivered to your mailbox every two weeks. Call (463-3327) or write (PO Box 253, Vashon) or email editor@vashonloop.com!



Troy and Marie Invite You to Open House



We are really looking forward to seeing all our friends and neighbors at the annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 1. It's going to be a good one. Read on for two big news scoops – and remember, you read it here first!

Troy: Marie, I think it would be great if we had music at the Open House. Do you think we should get Loose Change together and play?

Marie: Hmmm... it would be fun to have music. But *Mustang Sally* is not really a holiday song, if you know what I mean. And having all ten musicians in your band crammed under our covered entrance could get a little cozy.

Troy: Maybe it's time to introduce Spare Change, a pared down version of the band. It would just be Kevin (*He's Got a Lot of Kids*) Pottinger on keyboards and me on vocals. Maybe we can get one of the horn players, too. What do you think?

Marie: I think that would rock! We'll make hot cider and cocoa and make it a party. And we'll have a drawing to give away prizes. Some other agents have their "Loop-on" on the back of this paper. If we do one too, that gives people *three* chances to win something from a Keller Williams agent.

Troy: Loop-on. I get it. Honey, you are so clever.

Marie: Thank you. So the inaugural performance of Spare Change is one of our news scoops. Do you want to tell people about the other one?

Troy: Sure. For years, we have had a community Christmas tree that only Charlie Brown could love. Despite the lights and its location by Santa's Cottage, it was still a pretty pathetic tree. In fact, do you remember when we thought about cutting it down a few years ago?

Marie: Um, let's not talk about that. It's a good think you couldn't get the chainsaw started that year. And now we have a solution that doesn't require anarchy. Thanks to the cooperation of a whole bunch of people, we will have a beautiful, conical, fully lit tree at Ober Park.

Troy: Can't wait. We'll see everyone at the Open House!

If you are considering selling your house, now is the time to give us a call. Spring is closer than you think!
206.463.LIST (5478) or email marie@kwwvashon.com.



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Glendale Business Center



Troy & Marie

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Please drop in box at Keller Williams during the holiday open house on December 1st
Winners will be contacted, need not be present to win

On Island Properties

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MLS# 26187933

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- Close to town

This is a beautiful 1900 vintage farm home that is currently being operated as a Bed and Breakfast on Vashon Island. This beautiful Inn consists of 5 suites; 4 in the main house and 1 in the cottage. Each suite has a private bath and a sitting area. The cottage is steps from the main home and has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. If you love lavender this beautiful Inn has a beautiful lavender field in the back.
\$ 525,000.

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Listing Agent
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Off Island Properties

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Sarah can be reached direct
at (206) 550-8975 or call any team
member at (206) 463-LIST (5478)

MLS# 26070946

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Sarah Browne



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Sound Food

Continued from page 1

decommissioned, so it's locked up. When the Evergreen State was in service we were losing one-third of our income every day, which is a lot for us. Our costs remained the same – wages, benefits, operating insurance – so we asked the Ferry System for compensation, and they said no.”

“We worked with our accountants to determine our losses while the Evergreen State was in service, and withheld concessions income in the amount of our losses. We lost \$20,000, so I withheld \$20,000.”

Both parties agree on the amount of money that was withheld, and why, but WSF was not amused.

“This is in direct violation of our agreement with Sound Food,” stated Mike Anderson, Executive Director of WSF. “The contract clearly states that WSF shall not be liable for any damage, loss or increase in operating costs sustained by the concessionaire due to a change in vessel, concession premises, or schedule.”

As to accounting practices, Dorn said, “We never could come to an agreement with the Ferry System about accounting practices. We spent lots of time and money trying to resolve our differences, and never could.”

“The money on the boats was handled with standard retail practice. At the end of every shift, the register prints out a record of every transaction, and then the credit card slips, checks and cash in the drawer MUST match the tape. So we were balancing the drawer at the end of each shift, and the figures were entered into an Excel spread sheet that was turned in every month, but that was not acceptable to the Ferry System.”

“Sometimes the computers would go out on the boat and then we would have more money than the computer record showed, but we always tried to make sure that was explained.”

“The State audited us in May, 2005, and at that time we did have accounting problems. We had expanded so fast that we hadn’t kept up. We worked hard to get it right.”

News of the termination came abruptly, Dorn said.

“I was handed the termination letter and told I would see the press release before it went out so that I could tell employees before the news broke. Instead, the press release went out and reporters and employees were calling me. That’s how I found out the news was out.”

Loop Letters

Detention Center
Protests

Editor, *The Loop*:

We joined others from Backbone Campaign (backbonecampaign.org) of Vashon and Not in My County Organization (notinmycounty.org), for a peaceful protest at the Northwest Detention Center in the industrial area of old Tacoma on Saturday, November 11, in Tacoma.

At least 700 immigrants without documentation are being detained in this privately-run detention center, which is, really, a huge prison facility, void of windows, enclosed by a 12-foot escape proof fence.

Immigrant detention centers are found around the US. Many detainees have no convictions. Many come to this country without proper documentation, and about 10 percent of those are people who come to seek political asylum. Many wait in these centers to be deported, and/or have no planned release, or recourse. The INS, specifically ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) — which has become part of Homeland Security – shows little accountability or transparency in this justice system and has remained, effectively, out of the media spotlight. How many of us even knew that this facility existed within miles of our homes? Who is being held there? Why?

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The prison guards tried to intimidate the protestors initially by taking pictures of us, writing down license plates, and, we were told, taking videos, etc. Guards were standing erect at the gate and on the roof. Standing there on a dark and rainy night, it was a bit intimidating.

There are many issues here, but in the jubilation of the recent election outcome we can see there is much to still much to fight for — to unravel what’s been done in the system, so to speak, set up for Homeland Security — but, in this case, we fight for immigrants who pay taxes and Social Security, who live in our own community, who are our friends, neighbors, and coworkers; who may be abducted and taken from their home and family; or who have sought refuge in this country as an escape from their native country; and who are then detained when they come here. As the prison industry explodes with new construction around the country as one of the biggest economic “boosters,” we can see how this “protection” continues to threaten the basic rights of people.

There will be a vigil 2 to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, December 9**. See backbonecampaign.org or call for details 408-8058.

Andrea Walker
Howard Koenig

Fungus Among Us

These last few weeks have been ideal weather conditions conducive to the fungi growth. Chanterelles, Boletus, Shelf Mushrooms, Pictus, Caps and Gills galore! New varieties appearing daily in a woodland area near you!

Boletinus Pictus

Photo by Martin Halliwell

Youth-Adult
Dialogue Tackles
Gender Issues

About 40 Islanders sang, danced, ate, listened, and talked Tuesday evening at the Presbyterian Church social hall. The topic: Gender. Half of the participants were under 21.

Char Carroll, former Islander, led the group in a “gender cube” exercise in which people were asked to line up on an axis between masculine, androgynous, and feminine (gender)...then one between male, intersexed, and female (biology)... and on another one between heterosexual, bisexual, and homosexual (sexuality). She then explained, using those 9 characteristics, that there are at least 27 different gender variations.

“It was amazing,” said one adult participant. “At first I put myself squarely on one side of the room. Then I found myself floating toward the center, not locked into any one stereotype.”

Participants tackled questions about the privileges accorded — or not accorded — to one or another gender, how media images affect men’s and women’s images of ourselves and each other, and how language affects attitudes and stereotypes.

Separate fishbowl discussions spotlighted questions and concerns both of older and younger participants: safety of women, machismo of men, gender-bending fads, impacts of education systems, and whether anything ever changes.

People went away with specific ideas to implement in their lives, including self-defense classes, ballroom dancing, non-judgment, and open-mindedness.

Youth-Adult Dialogues are co-sponsored by the Vashon Island Prevention/Intervention Team

LoOp-Ed

On Truth, God, and Religion

By Mark A. Goldman

In the last Loop, one thoughtful reader opened up a discussion about truth, God, and religion. Many years ago, I might have written something similar.

The faithful of most religions—and there are lots of religions—will tell you that God and His wisdom is infinite and beyond the full comprehension of we mortals. Yet all religions have believers who are very certain that God and His thinking happens to be very closely aligned with their own. Curiously, they all seem to adhere to different points of view as to what God thinks or wants. For example, some folks think God wants them to pray on Saturday, others think it's Sunday (Most of us get weekends off. I guess God doesn't. Maybe it's a scheduling issue).

Given my own experience, I can understand how people can believe things so strongly. My own experience with God, like yours perhaps, has been profound, life altering, and deeply personal.

Let me share with you a few of my own strongly held understandings based on my own spiritual journey: God is not limited, God is not small, and God is very patient. God never stops learning, never gives up, and never loses faith. I don't believe that God "wrote" one book and then sat back, twiddling this thumbs, hoping that everyone who would ever read it would actually interpret all the passages the same way and thereby attain their enlightenment. And God was here, I think, before religion was.

Personally, I don't believe God decided to place limitations on himself regarding communications.

I think He offers, to those who are ready and prepared to listen, texts, poems, songs, movies, dreams, art, and (from time to time) perhaps burning bushes, if and whenever He thinks it might suit His purpose. I wonder if He knows for certain ahead of time who is paying attention and really listening. Anyway, I think He's always engaged in helping us learn and grow, sometimes testing us, and yet mindful that we are all different, that we all make mistakes, that we all learn at our own pace, in our own way, and sometimes because of or in spite of our immediate surroundings.

God understands that life for each of us is sometimes complicated and even confusing. I think God speaks to us all the time. But I also believe you have to be very open-minded to get what He's saying, because what He has to say might not always agree with conventional wisdom. Here's something God helped me understand. I'd like to share it with you...

On God and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the revealed true word of God. But the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a religion. God does not want to be worshipped. God wants to be loved. And the way you love God is by loving one another.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not God's Law. It is God's hope. It is not a law; it is a goal..."a common standard of achievement"... something to strive for. When all people have read it, understand it, and come into alignment with its teaching and wisdom, there will be peace on earth, goodwill towards others, and people will act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

When you love God you are fearless, but you do not practice war; you are fearless in your love for others. You are not afraid of ideas

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God loves you no matter what religion you practice and God loves you if you don't practice religion. God is not small. God is great. God is present and closer to you than your own breath.

God is real and not a myth.
I dedicate what I've written here to three of my friends who died in May 2006...Esther Robbins Hutton, Ruth Dasche, and Barbara J. Wood...in loving memory.

Uniquely Vashon Christmas Cards

By Ed Frohning

Six Designs



Available only at Vashon Pharmacy

Hand colored by Ed





Spiritual Smart Aleck

Sadie the Lady

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Back in 1994 our boys were growing up fast, and we did not have a dog. We had cats, rabbits, mice, rats, and a few goldfish, but no dog. When you are remembering your childhood on the farm and how there was always a dog, and how much the dog was your companion and playmate, it can seem like you need to get a dog for your kids, too.

So when I heard about an 8-month-old Doberman mix that Vashon Island Pet Protectors had up for adoption, I wondered if that was our dog, and went to meet her. She was mellow and sweet, a dignified puppy, with what is called “red” coloring – a rich chocolate brown with tan eyebrows, legs, and face mask, and that shiny single coat hair that gleamed in the sunlight.



Sadie the Lady

I later found out that the “mix” in her genes was American Staffordshire, i.e., Pit Bull, which gave her the build of a Sherman tank and a wide, fang-filled jaw. She was so powerful that having her on the leash became dangerous for me. I refer you to my left knee, and what I think of as the Sadie Memorial Torn Meniscus.

She became our Sadie the Lady. The kids did love her. She was the smartest dog I’ve ever known. “Too smart to be a dog,” I told people.

We built a fence around our yard, and then we had to build it a little higher. I remember that sleek, shiny, muscled body – a rear view because I was watching her leave – rising up and over the gate with air to spare in a graceful, fluid motion. Right. Well, we need to raise that barrier a bit.

This spring she was found to have a large tumor in her abdomen. She was 12 years old. We decided to make her as comfortable as possible for as long as possible.

We watched her decline over the summer. Last Monday Sadie stopped eating, and flopped out flat on the living room floor. She didn’t

want to move. Rick and I looked at her, then at each other, and said, “It’s time.”

Which is why we were sitting in the car out back of Fair Isle Animal Clinic, waiting for the sedative Don Wolzcko had given her to lull her into sleepiness.

“She’s starting to relax,” Rick said. So we knew the sedative was working, and that the pain was receding. A few minutes later, Don gave her the final injection, and the rise and fall of her breathing ceased.

Our other dog, Jive the Labrador, has been walking around the house looking for her. We know how he feels.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I’ve been thinking about what I’m thankful for. The hardest thing for which I have learned to be thankful

in my life is: *everything*. It is hard to feel thankful when you lose a beloved friend, animal or human, and yet you know that you grieve their passing to the degree that you loved them, and the love and the grief are one. God does not make life easy. God graces us on our journey through this

broken, beautiful world. We are creatures of flesh and blood, and creatures die. Human beings get to ponder that fact. Lucky us.

We want to thank Don Wolzcko and all the people at Fair Isle Animal clinic who were so kind to Sadie and to us. Thanks, folks, for kindness and compassion.

Thanks to everyone who kindly and compassionately “walks up to the gates” with us and our creature companions. You’re doing good work.

Good dog, Sadie.

~~~~~

## Shameless Plug for VIPP

Here’s a shameless plug for Vashon Island Pet Protectors (VIPP), who through their work for animal welfare on the Island have made this a great place to be an animal. Give those people a hand, and a check: VIPP, P O Box 245, Vashon WA 98070.



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is Friday, December 1

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## Let It Snow!

### Vashon Voices In Concert

By Cynthia Becker

Every holiday season Vashon Voices presents a concert of secular holiday tunes for the Vashon community. This year the small vocal ensemble is pulling out all the stops with *Let It Snow: A Concert of Holiday Favorites*. The group will perform on **Friday, December 15**, 8 p.m., and **Sunday, December 17**, 5 p.m. Both concerts will be presented at the Vashon United Methodist Church.

This year the group will perform a variety of songs that range from “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” to the familiar “Jingle Bells” to the hilarious “Twelve Days AFTER Christmas.”

Joe Farmer is the new Director of Vashon Voices this year. Farmer has over a decade of performance experience with the Seattle Men’s Chorus, Philandros and The Esoterics. This is his conducting debut.

“I’m very proud of the hard work and enthusiasm that each member has contributed to preparing this concert. The level of participation has exceeded my expectations,” he said.

“This is a not-to-be-missed concert, particularly the surprise ending! We have some wonderful local soloists in place, accompanied by a combo of several talented Vashon musicians,” he said.

Vashon Voices singers for this concert are: Earth Song, Julea Gardner, Judy White, Shannon Flora, Cynthia Becker, Patty Campbell, Connie Engels, Ron Goldman, Mike McDevitt, Brian Schott, Gay Jungemann, Bob Schlecht, Steve Allan, Jim Boardman, and Dick Paulsen. Soloists at the holiday concert include Joe Farmer and Shannon Flora performing “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” Dick Paulsen singing “The Christmas Song,” Earth Song soloing on “I Wish You Love,” Julea Gardner singing descant on “The Road Home,” and a special appearance by Lauri Hennessey on “What Are You Doin’ New Year’s Eve?”

Linda Lee, who has many years of professional choral accompanying experience, accompanies the group.

They will also be backed by a small combo.

Tickets to *Let It Snow* can be bought at Books by the Way and the Vashon Book Shop, as well as at the door before each concert. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children. Shows are Friday night at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m. Free childcare is available.



Andy and Jennifer Kirikawa, soloists with the Vashon Island Chorale. Courtesy photo

## Youth Chorus Joins Vashon Chorale in Yuletide Concert

The 70-voice Vashon Island Chorale will perform its annual Yuletide Concert at St. John Vianney Catholic Church on **Sunday December 3** at 5 and 7 p.m. For the major work, John Rutter’s *Mass of the Children*, the Chorale will be assisted by a 40-voice children’s choir conducted by Marita Ericksen.

The young singers, who range in age from 5 to 18, perform public concerts twice yearly. They are excited to be doing a piece in a foreign language, with three-part harmony, and with adults and an orchestra, “...and they are rising to the task - I’m very proud of them,” says Ericksen.



# Don't Forget the Birds



Cooper's Hawks taking off Photo by Jim Rosso

## Keeping Wild Birds Happy and Healthy

By Ed Swan

As it gets more into the time of year when bird lovers place more feed out for their avian friends, I thought I would pass on some of the great ideas for a safe environment for feeding wildlife from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. They have a great web site covering many bird topics at [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu).

Taking a few precautions around feeders prevents a great deal of injuries and mortality for birds. The biggest problem areas include window crashes, cats and dirty feeders. Natural predators sometimes use a seed feeder as their bait for creating a feeding station for them instead of the intended beneficiary. If that becomes a concern, there exist a few solutions for that as well.

As I wrote in an earlier column, cats kill hundreds of millions of birds each year across the continent. The best way to cut bird deaths around the house consists of keeping your cat indoors. This tactic proves best for the cat's health as well, keeping it from injury caused by fights with other cats or predators such as raccoons as well as limiting exposure to parasites. Local cats pick up a lot of parasites by eating many of the local vole, mice and other rodent species on Vashon.

From time to time, natural predators such as Sharp-shinned Hawks or Cooper's Hawks find great opportunities to catch prey around feeders and proceed to camp out there every day picking off the smaller birds. I personally enjoy watching them at work, but if this type of bird feeding bothers you, take down the feeder for a week or so and the hawks tend to move on to more prey-rich areas.

When placing feeders out in a yard, always locate it near cover providing an avenue for escape from any type of predator: cats, dogs or hawks. That cover might consist of trees, shrubs or brush piles.

and silhouettes of hawks to the window. The Cornell web site says the latter method works not because of the "hawk" shape but because of the actual mechanical breaking up of the window reflections by the cut-out shape. The web site also suggests trying deer netting, which seems an unlikely solution for anyone wanting to enjoy a view but perhaps usable in some settings. Moving a bird feeder within three feet of the window works, in that birds are unable



Cooper's Hawk Photo by Jim Rosso

to build up an injurious momentum. Taking it out to a distance of at least thirty feet gives them a better chance to perceive obstacles.

Dirty feeders occasionally increase the spread of avian diseases or just plain get moldy and junked up. Over time, shelled hulls get wet and moldy and bird droppings pile up. Cornell suggests cleaning feeders out every two weeks or so or more often if heavily used. Hummingbird feeders should be washed before refilling or after a mixture sits for 3-5 days.

In local bird news, migration appears to be just about wound up with Ruddy Ducks being the only species not in yet. They usually don't arrive until the end of November or early December. The two recent observations of note came from Richard Rogers and John Friars. Richard saw two more flocks of swans heading south over Wax Orchards November 7. John Friars found a Eurasian Wigeon at Mukai Pond November

8. I believe that to be the first recorded incidence of Eurasian Wigeon at that location, though American Wigeon regularly stop by in fall and winter there. Lisabeula and Ellisport provide the more

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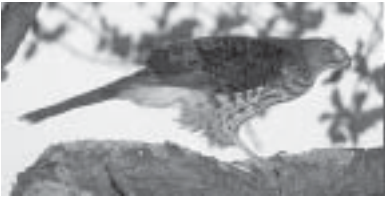


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usual location for picking out a Eurasian from a big flock of wigeon. If you have an interesting sighting to report or a question about local birds, call me at 463-7976 or email at [edswan@centurytel.net](mailto:edswan@centurytel.net).

One important date for birdwatchers to put on their calendar is this year's Christmas Bird Count, taking place **Sunday, December 29**. This makes a great opportunity for birders of all skill



Cooper's Hawk Photo by Jim Rosso

levels to get out and see some interesting birds around the island. You can also stay at home and count the birds at your feeder or on your property. Call Sue Trevathan at 463-1484 or email at [sue.trevathan@centurytel.net](mailto:sue.trevathan@centurytel.net) for more information or to take part.

A narcissist is someone better looking than you are. -- Gore Vidal

The Crossword Puzzle has moved to page 16

[www.vashonloop.com](http://www.vashonloop.com)

## Vashon Chorale Christmas Concert

Continued from page 6

Soprano and baritone solos will be sung by Jennifer and Andy Krikawa, formerly professional singers who moved from New York to Vashon a few years ago and have since performed in many Island musical events (Jennifer was most recently heard in *The Magic Flute* adaptation by Elizabeth Nye).

Chorale conductor David Kappy says "I wanted us to do this piece because it is one of the most popular and most frequently performed pieces of new music, one that will keep us on the cutting edge of contemporary choral literature."

The singers will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra that includes a wind quintet from the University of Washington, Island percussion players, and Craig Hanson playing the organ.

*Mass of the Children* was first performed in February 2003 in Carnegie Hall. The work was commissioned by Peter Tiboris of MidAmerica Productions, the organization that sponsored the concert in which Vashon Chorale members participated in June 2005 at Carnegie Hall.

The Chorale will also sing a number of short songs of the season, with organ accompaniment by Craig Hanson. Tickets are \$10 at Books by the Way or at the door if available. For more information contact Jo Ann Bardeen, 567-5841.



Cooper's Hawk Photo by Jim Rosso

Window strikes kill an estimated additional several million birds a year. Breaking up the reflections of the window appears to be the best method. Some bird watchers do this by attaching streamers



# Steel Magnolias in Our Own Backyard

By Susan Wolf

It’s easy to get so mired down in our demanding jobs and family life that we forget there are many, many admirable people on our island who struggle with more impossible challenges. Like David and Goliath we see these people, who have been given problems so overwhelming, it has been referred to as a “tsunami of the soul.” Take for instance:

Lisa Devereau. After surviving two surgeries and treatment for her throat cancer, her mother died of cancer. Shortly after that, her sister’s cancer returned after a seven year hiatus. But Lisa continues to reach out to comfort those with recent losses. True, part of it is a business, but Lisa is somehow able to see devastating losses from another’s perspective. I believe that’s why she always says the right thing when it’s needed. We’re lucky she has chosen death as her profession.

A dainty, cheerful woman with a sweet, lilting voice, her sister Rhea Harvey, was undergoing a double mastectomy. The same day Rhea’s 31-year-old daughter, a mother of two babies, received the diagnosis of Stage 4 breast cancer. Four days later, she was in surgery. Like a grade “B” movie, too awful to be remotely considered realistic, they both were trying to recover from surgery, help each other and take care of the kids while their husbands were at work. Both have recovered with their smiles, marriages and mental facilities intact, which is a testament to their monumental faith and endurance. They agreed to let

me tell their story to get the word out to women: “Don’t be afraid of your body,” says Rhea, “Get it checked out – Now!”

Their other sister, Linda, lost her 16 year job and a year later her husband lost his. It didn’t make Linda bitter; she forged ahead in a new career while reaching out to be an emotional life preserver during the stormy months of her sisters’ treatments. But then, she does that for everyone. Our friend, Barb Cooper, lost her job at K-2 after 22 years when her husband was ill only to have her house catch fire. But she bounced back and boy, do I love to hear her laugh.

Fran Gordon and her husband Dick have quietly contributed to efforts such as the Vashon Heritage Center, Drama Dock and the school district for years. As the breast cancer continued to pop up in different places in her body like some sort of demented computer game, she kept putting one foot in front of the other; teaching a few kids at church, joking and expressing concern about how others were doing. Fran passed away while this article was being prepared for publication, but I will never forget the way she made The Man Upstairs entirely understandable, simple and to-the-point. Her steel-like faith exuded a quiet, cheerful confidence that was contagious.

There’s a tiny elderly lady, who for years drove her blind friend to the grocery store every week until she fell and broke a hip herself; the single young father who works hard and struggles to better himself.

four years in Haiti. She’s been back for a while now, and she can laugh about it, but the experience has stayed with her.

While in Haiti, Priscilla had her first encounter with micro-financing. Her housekeeper, Monique, who was raising her own children as well as the children of her deceased sister, also baked muffins to sell at a bakery.

Priscilla’s mother raised money to purchase the woman a stove so that she could bake the muffins at home. “We stayed in touch for years,” Priscilla said. “She told me that the stove made all the difference in their lives.”

Now Priscilla is fulfilling her dream to make “all the difference” in many people’s lives.

She began by doing a Ten Thousand Villages Festival on the Island every Christmas season for one weekend, in the basement of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Ten Thousand Villages is an organization which markets arts and crafts from around the world made by village businesses, many of whom have received micro-financing – small loans of just

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None of these fine people will think they are anything special and all of them will be just a little embarrassed that I’ve mentioned them. Sometimes it seems all we hear about is terror, war, murderous crime and political jousting while there are people around who have been dealt a bad hand and continue to forge on. Gratitude is what makes you feel the sunshine on your face when your feet are mired in the mud. I’m grateful for the example of my friends - they make me want to be a better person.



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No animal should ever jump up on the dining room furniture unless absolutely certain that he can hold his own in the conversation. — Fran Lebowitz



Left to right, Priscilla Schleigh Kimmel, owner-manager of Giraffe, and customers Patricia Gates and Anne Keller show off bags crafted in Cambodia from Rice bags. Loop photo

## Giraffe: a Fair Trade Store Brings the World to Vashon

By Mary Litchfield Tuel & Morgan Miles Wegner

Priscilla heard the machine guns firing, and instinctively fell to the floor to take cover.

Her mother looked down at her curiously and asked, “What are you doing down there?”

“Machine guns!” Priscilla answered.

Her mother stared at her for a moment before saying, “Those were fireworks. It’s the Fourth of July.”

That was one adjustment in Priscilla Schleigh Kimmel’s return to to the United States after spending

enough money to buy materials and tools and get started.

“The first year we sold \$3,000 worth of goods in those two days; the second year, we made \$7,000; the third year, \$11,000. All in two days! So I figured, yes, there is a market on the Island.”

Friends Gib and Deb Damman purchased the Delaney house in uptown Vashon and told her, “Priscilla, it’s time to follow your dream.” So, on October 25, she opened Giraffe, a fair trade store, on Vashon.

The store’s exterior is painted a burnt orange shade called, “African Sunset.” Inside, the space is bright, airy and colorful. There are African

masks, scarves and other textiles, wall and door hangings, baskets, beads, bags, bowls (both singing and silent), jewelry, utensils, photography, toys, rhythm instruments, rugs, ornate crosses, welcome mats and cushions. There are precisely woven basket-bowls in bright, swirling patterns made from the colorful wires found inside telephone cables. There are tote bags and wallets made of juice containers, and messenger bags made of rice sacks, all lined with fabric, all meticulously crafted. And, of course, there are many giraffes, made from wire and beads, ceramics, wood, and fabric.

“There are seventeen groups I get things from, as well as Ten Thousand Villages,” Priscilla says. “We are a partner store with Ten Thousand Villages.”

“My wonderful husband, Jim, has been working with me. I never could have done this without him.”


It has been an adventure getting started. The store is busy and gets new items all the time. “Jim went over to pick up some doormats today that are made of recycled flip flop pieces. They are made by these ladies who collect the pieces the flip flop factory doesn’t use, and they are so colorful.”

Giraffe is located in uptown Vashon, across the street from Subway. If you’ve got a moment, stop by, say hi, buy a fair trade item or two and make a difference.



Ellen Trout inspects a necklace. Hint to her daughter: this is the one she wants for Christmas. Loop photo





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Essay:

Sisters and  
Sister  
Communities

By Alice Orr

I went into the kitchen and stacked plates. I said I was restless from sitting, but...that wasn't the real reason I left the spacious living room and the gracious people in it. I was giving my heart a cushion of distance from the stories being told by the man who'd come from California to tell us about the region of Santiago Atitlan, Vashon's Sister Community in Guatemala.

"You don't want to miss what he's saying," our hostess chided as she set more plates on the countertop.

"I can hear him," I said.

We were both right. I didn't want to miss a word however heartbreaking it might be, and I could hear as long as I listened hard and stacked quietly. I could hear without being seen. I tend to betray my feelings in such situations. They show plain as day on my face, and that's not always comfortable for those around me to witness. Besides, sorrow is a private thing in my tradition. So I kept my face averted, pretending to be intent upon rinsing each plate extra-clean while I tuned my ears to catch every syllable.


He told us of an old man with tears streaming down his cheeks as he begged for installation of a clean water system in his village. He had

watched three of his grandchildren die from contamination in the deadly brown water that was all they had to drink. "We don't drink our water; we chew it.' That's what the locals say," the speaker added perhaps to temper the image of the old man and his streaming cheeks, standing there as visible among us as we were to one another.

The man from California pulled no such punches in his stories of the mudslides that devastated our sister community in the wake of Hurricane Stan just a year ago. The scene that burned itself most indelibly into my consciousness was of a man who had left home to fetch the midwives because his wife was giving birth. In his absence, the slide hit. He returned to find his wife, the birthing baby and his three other children buried beneath fifteen feet of mud, where they lie entombed to this day. When I heard that, I clutched the plate I was holding so tightly I'm surprised it didn't shatter.

Two weeks later, the mudslide was the subject of discussion at yet another meal, a Rotary Club breakfast this time. A man from Vashon had recently visited our sister community and shared his story of walking on top of the hardened mud where the slide occurred. He noticed a fragment of material protruding from the ground near his feet and reached down to pick it up, but it would not budge. It was the edge of a *huipil*, a traditional garment of the indigenous women of Santiago

New At



5 Healthy Reasons to eat at Zoomies

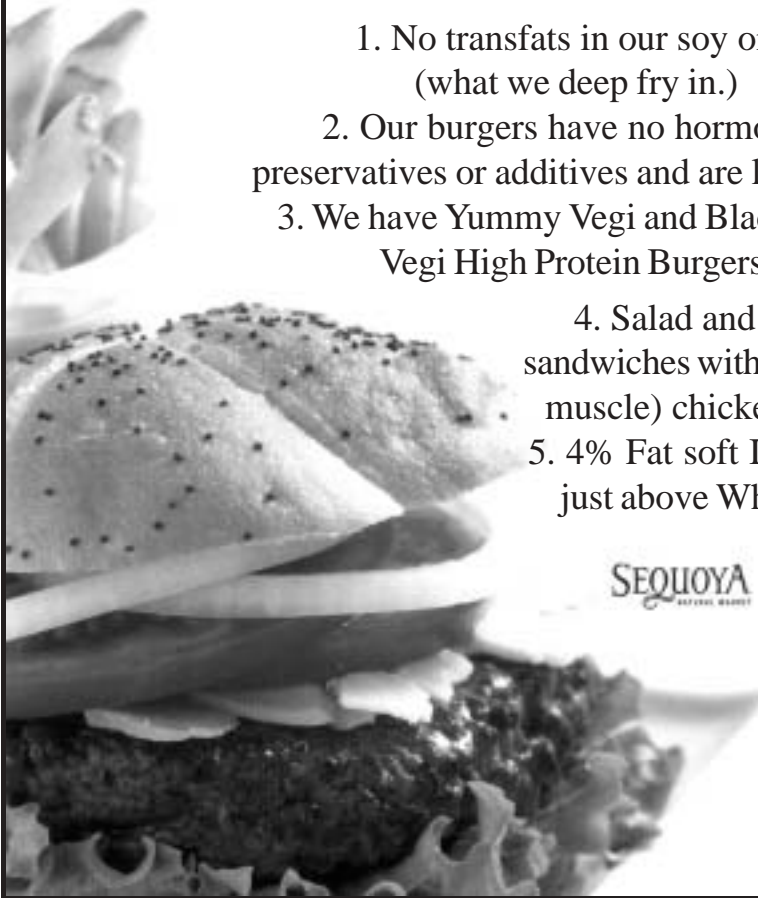
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Atitlan, probably still enshrouding whoever had it on when the mud descended. I couldn't very well run to the kitchen and hide from the starkness of that image. I stared at the plate of the person next to me instead, two wedges of melon and a chunk of pineapple.

I don't know why, but when I hear such stories I think of the women. The woman whose children were killed by the water she had no choice but to let them drink. The women summoned to usher life into the world who found death waiting. The women of Santiago Atitlan in their carefully woven and embroidered *huipils*. I hear them keening. I see them curve their bodies, shielding what remains of their families, praying for those remnants to be spared. There is a sisterhood for me here in our common histories of love and loss however paltry my losses may seem compared to theirs, in our desperation to protect our own however overwhelming the threat may be.

Or maybe ours is simply a sisterhood of the plates, thousands upon millions of plates to be filled from ages past into ages future, from Santiago Atitlan to Cemetery Road Southwest. Plates forever emptied yet again, forever needing to be cleansed and stacked away.

*Vashon will host a community-wide benefit concert by the acclaimed world music group Children of the Revolution on Saturday, February 10, 2007, at the Vashon Theatre. Proceeds will fund benefit projects for the residents of Santiago Atitlan and other stricken regions of Guatemala. You may call Alice Orr at (206) 463-1710 for further information.*

◻◻◻◻



Fran Gordon

The Kneejerk Conservative

Fran Gordon — all around delightful, classy human being – passed away on Saturday, November 18.

Fran came on board as a conservative voice in *The Loop* about a year ago, somewhat reluctantly. She came up with the title, "The Kneejerk Conservative," for her column. She was thoughtful, and so intelligent, and able and willing to consider complexities.

When her hair began to fall out from radiation treatment, she allowed her son David to oversee the arrangement of a punk hairdo in rainbow colors for her. What a mom.

She said, "I've seen some people with pretty hard rows to hoe. I have always had what I needed – excellent family, excellent teachers. I've had the most important things, family and community. I've got nothing to complain about." Of her husband, Dick, she said, "I have never put out my hand that Dick wasn't there for me."

There will be a service for Fran on **Friday, November 24**, at 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, just east of the high school on SW 204 Street. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of *The Loop*.



# The Dorsal Spin

## Are We Lousy Neighbors to J, K, and L Pods?

By Orca Annie Stateler

In the spirit of giving thanks, the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) is grateful to Kim and Tracy for buying Odin’s “Loon and Owl” painting at the Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie. In addition, we wanted to do cartwheels when we went to buy coffee on Veterans’ Day and discovered a sold out shelf of pre-packaged Orca Blend bags.

A big thank you goes to Rachel and Fred for the intriguing baleen whale report on November 8. From the description, it sounds like they saw a young humpback whale breach near the Southworth dock. Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP): REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041.

We are still hearing sea lions splashing, snorting, and occasionally barking on our hydrophone. The other day I watched one robust male California sea lion flog a salmon and glower at the gulls stealing his scraps.

As I write this Dorsal Spin on November 17, Southern Resident orcas have been to Vashon-Maury waters only twice this fall. During this same period last year, mid-October to mid-November, J, K, and L Pods visited the Island eight times. A recent trip to salmon-bearing streams, Judd and Shinglemill Creeks, may offer a clue to the whales’ conspicuous absence: no salmon, no orcas. At this time, the abundant food sources and our killer whales are elsewhere on the West Coast.

J Pod has not been here at all in 2006. When I moved to Vashon in 1994, J Pod was the pod most likely to visit Island waters. J’s came with such frequency and regularity that researcher Mark Sears could accurately forecast their travel time between Lincoln Park and Point Robinson. Regular readers know that Mark has studied the Southern Residents for thirty years and is the leading authority on how these orcas use local waters.

J’s were quite reliable until a few years ago. They have spent less time here as K and L Pods, especially K Pod, visited more often. Last season all three pods departed the Vashon area early, before Christmas, and spent significantly less time here.



I give thanks for my pod!

What is unprecedented in my years on the Island and in Mark’s recollection is J Pod’s extended absence.

That our top predator currently finds Central Puget Sound inhospitable should alarm us all. As for possible causes, in broad terms, ocean conditions for salmon have trended toward less favorable since the year 2000, partly due to a natural cycle called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and partly due to human-influenced climate change.

Vessel impacts and noise in Puget Sound are likely reasons for killer whales to avoid this area. It may be coincidental, but fall/winter whale watch trips started out of Seattle in 2002 and now the Southern Residents spend less time in Island waters. I do not believe it is neighborly to expect our orcas to dodge more boats when they are most vulnerable and food is harder to find.

Now that the elections are over, catch up on environmental news at [www.tidepool.org](http://www.tidepool.org). Recently we learned that storm water runoff into the Sound is inadequately controlled, and PCB and mercury levels in Puget Sound resident Chinook salmon (black mouth) make them unsafe for humans to eat more than twice a month. Our orcas must eat and live in this loud, poisonous stew and they are suffering.

Killer whales have made all the sacrifices in an unbalanced relationship with modern humans. Threatened by depleted salmon stocks, deadly toxins in their blubber, stress from ever-increasing underwater noise, and crowding by boats, our endangered Southern Residents are struggling to survive. As a student of these whales for fifteen years, I have observed that our species is constantly violating natural boundaries, often by projecting egotistical desires on this fragile orca population.

I do not exempt my peer group, the whale advocacy community, from this observation. Our house is not entirely in order. Some lack insight about the glaring disconnect between flowery words and their behavior; i.e., “Do as we say, not as we do.” The precautionary principle gets only lip service when study efforts are more intrusive than protective.

Killer whales, like all top predators, require privacy and space

# PANDORA'S BOX

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to hunt, bear young, sustain their vital social bonds, and do all that is necessary to thrive in an unforgiving environment. Orcas need respite from curious humans in boats shadowing their every move. We rob them of their dignity and mystery if we are omnipresent in their lives.

Though I miss them terribly, I am relieved J, K, and L Pods retreated to a secret place this fall, where I pray they found a salmon jackpot and they will not be exploited for ego or profit.

Contact Orca Annie at [Vashonorcas@aol.com](mailto:Vashonorcas@aol.com). ~~~~~

## We’ve Got a Lot of Kids

### I’ve Got Fifty Things to Be Thankful For

By Kevin Pottinger

This year, the holidays will arrive much sooner than I am ready for them to arrive. It’s the same each year.

Each year, I’m the guy that buys the last sad, misshapen turkey from Thriftway the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. It’s always a frozen block; a heavy, slippery and fairly dangerous rock of ice and turkey flesh. I carry it home in several grocery bags and drop it on the kitchen counter with an icy thud.

In a strange circle of annual amnesia, each year I phone my Mom and ask how I can safely thaw a turkey in fifteen hours. And each year, except for the first year when I cooked a partially frozen turkey for Thanksgiving, we have something other than turkey for Thanksgiving.

Around Thanksgiving, my wife Maria leaves a list of things to buy her for Christmas. It’s not a list of ideas; it’s a list of what to buy, much like a grocery list. And, new this year, she told me when to actually go out and do the shopping. I procrastinate.

Each year, I vow that the holidays will be different. That in itself is a sort of tradition. But they never are: because I’m with me, and I never change. But every year, regardless of what we serve for supper on Thursday, I have plenty of things to be thankful for.

This year, I’ve got fifty things to be thankful for. Without attaching any significance to the order, I am thankful for: Jennie-O pre-cooked turkey breast packed in its own

roasting bag; all the beautiful children in all the families in the world; disposable diapers; a series of days without any cataclysmic earthquakes in it; indoor plumbing; the traditional high-fat and low-fiber holiday diet; and my lovely wife Maria.

I’m thankful for: living relatives; dead relatives that have finally found their peace; friends of all kinds; plywood, sheetrock and other labor saving devices; laptop computers; a merciful God that created the world with a person in it that could invent baby wipes; and the idea of heaven.

There’s more: the written word; Rueben sandwiches; elementary-school teachers and school bus drivers; holiday bonuses (or is it boni?); central heating; homeless shelters; and cable.

Thanks to God for: giving us the full twenty-four hours in each day without fail; the light and dark (although sometimes I disagree with the ratios); hope and charity and the constant intercessions of the Saints; abundant love lavished on the undeserving; making me a better husband and father; my Mom’s health; and curved space because it sounds so cool.

More thanks for: each one of our kids including both of the twins; doctors and nurses; scientific method; stand-up comedy; inebriation and sobriety; electricity; and an opportunity to spend all of our money on bills because I’ve found that’s a lot better than not having any money to pay them.

Wait, there’s more! I’m thankful for: the invention of table manners; clean silverware; electric refrigerators; pre-plucked and dressed turkeys; civic and family traditions; all people of good will; and hot and cold running water.

And, finally, thanks for the usual things: our family’s good health; being able to earn a living for our family; my talents and talented failings; the ever-present choice to do the right thing; people that are different from us so that the world doesn’t seem so small; and of course, zinc oxide.

During the holidays, and all year ‘round, be thankful out there. I’ll close with a snip of dialog from one of my favorite movies, Cool Hand Luke. Luke has bet his cellmates that he can eat fifty eggs. That’s a lot of eggs. His buddy Dragline asks:

Dragline: Why you got to go and say fifty eggs for? Why not thirty-five or thirty-nine? Luke: I thought it was a nice round number.

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# Book Review

## Tragedy and Redemption from a Rising Young Writer

By Rachel Bard

In this extraordinary first novel, Matt Briggs takes in hand several strands of narrative, character and place to weave a deeply affecting depiction of a not-so-far-away world: Northwest counterculture in the '70s. For good measure he tosses in the troubled protagonist's experiences in the post-Vietnam Army.

Briggs, who read at the Vashon Library on November 12, admits that much of the story is based on his own childhood. He too grew up in the Snoqualmie Valley and his parents too were determined to live off the land and indulged in pot smoking and long, uninhibited parties.

But whether it's autobiographical, or how much, is irrelevant. The story and the atmosphere get to you and hold you in their grip. The Bohm family moves to the woods near Snoqualmie where they'll farm, where Mom and Dad will have low-pay jobs in restaurants, and where Dad will supplement the family income by raising marijuana in the root cellar. Nine-year old Aldous, his younger brother Jake, and their little sister Adrian, are left to their own devices much of the time; their parents love them but are either away at work or occasionally seem to forget all about them. Aldous, as the oldest, feels responsible for his siblings and worries a lot.

At school he's a total misfit, nothing like the children of the men who work at the Weyerhaeuser mill in Snoqualmie. He's lonely and a nerd, though he doesn't know the word yet. He joins the Cub Scouts so that at least one day a week when he wears his uniform, he'll look like everybody else. But that doesn't help. Mr. Laxton, the scoutmaster, is a strict fundamentalist. One day he quizzes the little boys:

"Aldous, tell me how old the world is."

"Around four point six billion years old."

"Dead wrong. Six thousand." Which leads to a lecture on Noah and the Flood, a short-lived attempt by Aldous to conform by going to Sunday School, and another failure.

His confidant and anchor, though an erratic one, during these difficult years is Uncle Oliver, his father's brother. Returning from Vietnam, Oliver takes up residence in the attic. The brothers spend hours sitting on the worn sofa smoking pot, drinking beer, talking and laughing. But Oliver tells the children tall tales, takes them on expeditions into the forest where he convinces them he's seen monsters, and is often there for them when the parents aren't. Frequently, though, all three of the adults melt out of the picture and the kids are left to wonder.

Which is the case when the defining event of Aldous's life occurs. Dad decides that instead of going to see the July 4th fireworks in Seattle (which the children would have preferred), they'll go to the



Author Matt Briggs Courtesy photo

Olympics. They hike up the Quinault River to Enchanted Valley where they camp in the chalet (my only quibble with the book, and a tiny one, is that Briggs persists in referring to this area as the Hoh Rain Forest, which is actually twenty miles to the north). When the children wake in the morning to find themselves alone, they're bewildered. Aldous thinks the three adults have gone into the forest to find something they

don't want the children to know about.

He persuades the others to join him in going after them. They leave the shelter for the cold rain that's soaking the meadow. Before long they've strayed from the trail. The forest, damp and dark and hung with

moss, is like another character in the story, affecting moods and actions.

They slog on, shivering and soaked, and finally lie down to rest on the soft moss under a cedar. When rescuers eventually find them, Jake and Aldous are unconscious from hypothermia but Adrian is dead.

From then on guilt and self-hatred become part of Aldous's being. He knows he's responsible for his little sister's death because he insisted on taking her out into the trackless rain forest. But he keeps it to himself, mostly.

Briggs intersperses the account of Aldous's younger years with his time in the Army during the build-up to the first Gulf War. Here it isn't quite so hard to be just one of the crowd.

"I spent nine weeks learning how to be in the Army, how to be like everybody else. Everybody else spent time learning how to be like me. The uniformity of the Army costume and the fact that we had spent the last nine weeks isolated in the world of basic training gave us a common background. We were a superficial brotherhood united by a single haircut."

He meets a girl (fellow soldier), stumbles into a relationship and for the first time finds it possible to talk about his unconventional youth and his lost sister. The tale ends with a strong hint that at last, at nineteen, Aldous has grown up.

Briggs, who has written three collections of short stories, won an American Book Award for this novel. He's been compared to Ken Kesey, Raymond Carver and Kurt Cobain. Clearly, a man to watch.

www

It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.— Mark Twain

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By Jonathan Shipley

## Thirty-three Things I'm Thankful For (in random order)

- 1) Meatloaf sandwiches.

2) Trombones.

3) Skittles.

4) Rain.

5) Sun.

6) Moon.

7) Stars.

8) My daughter.

9) Birds.

10) John Steinbeck.

11) Sweater vests.

12) Libraries.

13) Wikipedia.

14) My wife.

15) Wisconsin.

16) Secret Squirrel & Morocco Mole.

17) Sequoias.

18) Mountains.

19) Catamarans.
- 20) Dixon Ticonderoga #2 pencils.

21) My family.

22) Coffee.

23) Slippers.

24) Cheese.

25) Portugal.

26) My friends.

27) Lentil soup.

28) Campfires.

29) Duran Duran.

30) Jerky.

31) Pie.

32) Tea cozies.

33) The A-Team.
- www



Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is Friday, December 1





# Unnatural “Natural” Products

By Kathy Abascal

Most health food customers use the word “natural” to mean something that is formed by plants as they go about their business of living and surviving in nature. And most things in health food stores meet that definition. Some products, however, do not and grapefruit seed extract is one of those products.

Grapefruit seed extract is often recommended as an antimicrobial by naturopathic physicians. People report great success using it although it tastes really bad. This sounds great. What good be more benign than a grapefruit? The problem is that grapefruit seeds are not antimicrobial. Study after study shows that “real” grapefruit seed extracts are completely ineffective against bacteria and other microbes. “Real” grapefruit seed extract, by the way, is what you get when you grind up grapefruit seeds or extract them with a solvent like alcohol.

How can it work but not be effective in the research studies? It turns out that the grapefruit seed extracts on the store shelves are so far removed from grapefruits that it is almost fraudulent to call them by that name. Here is how grapefruit seed extract is made:

1. Grapefruit pulp and seed is dried and ground to a powder. I imagine this is an inexpensive by-product of the juice industry. No problem so far.
2. The powder is dissolved in purified water and distilled to remove the fiber and pectin. Fine so far; it is not used as a source of fiber.
3. The distilled slurry is spray dried at low temperatures forming a concentrated flavonoid powder. This is good, we need flavonoids and grapefruit is a fine place to get them.
4. This concentrated powder is dissolved in vegetable glycerin and heated. Fine, glycerin is benign.
5. Food grade ammonium chloride and ascorbic acid are added, and this mixture is heated under pressure. The amount of

ammonium chloride remaining in finished Citricidal (a commonly available grapefruit seed extract) is 15-19%; the amount of ascorbic acid is 2.5-3%. Ascorbic acid is pure Vitamin C, a fine additive. Ammonium chloride?? Ammonium chloride is a synthetic chemical that is harmful if swallowed in larger amounts. It is a skin irritant.

6. The ammoniated mixture undergoes catalytic conversion using “natural” catalysts, including hydrochloric acid and natural enzymes. There is no residue of hydrochloric acid after the reaction. Thank goodness. Hydrochloric acid has its place in the stomach but is not something to be taken lightly.

7. The slurry is cooled, filtered, and treated with ultraviolet light. OK.

The result: The main active components in the finished product are a group of quaternary ammonium chlorides including benzethonium chloride that make up 8-17% of the product.

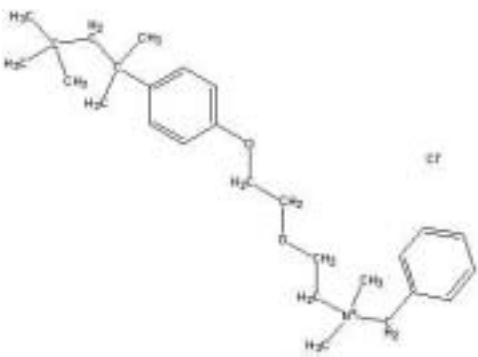
Benzethonium chloride is not a substance that occurs naturally in grapefruit seeds. It is a manufactured chemical that is lacking in safety data but may be an endocrine and skin toxicant. Endocrine toxicants are chemicals that have the ability to disrupt our hormones. Commonly encountered endocrine toxicants include PCBs and DDT.

“Not to worry,” assures the manufacturer of Citricidal®: “Benzethonium chloride is a well-known synthetic antiseptic agent; it is not added to the grapefruit extract, but is formed from the original grapefruit flavonoids during the ammoniating process.” They assure us it has no short term or long term toxicity. Perhaps. However, most customers are still being fooled into taking a chemical that has not been thoroughly studied.

Using grapefruit seed extract is about the same as going to the pharmacy and buying triclosan or any other synthetic antimicrobial chemical. They may work well and they may be safe. But again, safety data is often lacking and they may not be safe. In addition, the manufacturing process may produce other more toxic ammoniated, chlorinated byproducts that are released into the environment.

Manipulation of “natural” products is not an uncommon occurrence in the health food industry. Instead of using whole plant extracts more or less as they are made, manufacturers isolate compounds from plants and then tweak them to purportedly make them more effective. Of course, the resulting products lack the centuries of human use that allows us to know that they are safe.

Plants are also used as an inexpensive entry point in a chemical process designed to



Benzethonium chloride



## Kathy Abascal’s New Book Now Available!

Kathy Abascal’s New Book Now Available! You can now buy her book *Herbs & Influenza – How herbs used in the 1918 flu pandemic can be effective today* at local Vashon stores. For more information on the book and on the 1918 flu pandemic, visit Kathy’s website at <http://www.HerbsandInfluenza.com>.



Kathy Abascal is a professional member of the American Herbalists Guild and is certified by Michael Moore of the Southwest School of Botanical Medicine. She co-authored the book *Clinical Botanical Medicine*. You can email her at [anemopsis@yahoo.com](mailto:anemopsis@yahoo.com) if you have questions about herbs. If you have questions about herbs, call her to schedule a private consultation (463-9211) or stop by The Roasterie to purchase her tinctures.

produce a specific chemical. Wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*) is an example. Wild yam is a wonderful antispasmodic that has never been used to treat perimenopausal symptoms. It does not contain progesterone. However, it can be used in a laboratory as a starting point in the manufacture of progesterone, a hormone. Yet another example is star anise (*Illicium verum*) which is a fragrant spice that is used in small doses to flavor foods. In larger amounts, it is toxic. It is also a starting point for the manufacture of Tamiflu®. You cannot use star anise instead of Tamiflu, the two have nothing in common except a laboratory process.

My advice: Use whole plants the way they have been used traditionally. Do not think up new uses for them based on what chemical manufacturers are able to do in their labs. And avoid grapefruit seed extract. ☹☹☹☹

I like Wagner’s music better than anybody’s. It is so loud that you can talk the whole time without people hearing what one says. -- Oscar Wilde



Heron Reflection by Geri Peterson

## Artist Closeup: Geri Peterson

Geri Peterson is showing her paintings and drawings at the recently re-opened Back Bay Inn as part of the Art Studio Tour Holiday 2006, and she will be at the Inn during the tour’s hours.

She hopes that viewers will be delighted by her charcoal tribute to the native artists of southeast Alaska. She chose this subject to honor the heritage and marriage of the new owners of Back Bay. She has also included a selection of watercolor paintings of saltwater animals, birds and plants.

Geri and her husband Jack reside on Vashon Island. She discovered a love for painting in painting class she took for fun in 1989. After retirement from Boeing, Geri returned to school and graduated with a degree in Art Education and a passion for watercolors.

Living in the Northwest influences Geri’s colors and subjects. “Nearly everyone has a weakness for landscape, and wildlife. With my love of gardening I must add flowers to that list.”

To Geri, original art is a living thing that, with care, will exist through generations, and her biggest validation to continue painting is when someone is thrilled enough with a piece of her work to take it home to live with them.

Geri Peterson’s show at Back Bay Inn will be on exhibit through **December 2 and 3**, and **December 9 and 10**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.



Tlingit Raven by Geri Peterson



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Solution to Puzzle on page 16

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## Planet Waves

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



**Happy Birthday Scorpio!**  
This year presents you with what seems like contradictory choices. It's a little like you're a talented student not sure whether to pursue an acting career or go to law school. There are two equally compelling forces acting on you, internally. The thing to remember is that while they are coming from you, one of them appears to have the greater influence of another person, such as an authority figure of some kind. One is based on a sense of limitation, and the other is based on a sense of what is possible, even though you have no logical reason to think it's possible.

**Aries (March 20-April 19):** There are those times the universe offers you something really good, but then you're not in the mood. I really hope today is not one of those days. Your willpower and sense of direction are aligned with your deeper growth needs, and if you're paying attention you will see that intimacy, contact and deep, quiet spaces are high on the list. You've been offered many things the past few weeks that have not met the purity standard of pleasure happening only in the context of true love. Forget purity and go for the passion.

**Taurus (April 19-May 20):** All relationships are based on exchange. However, for people whose vision of themselves is limited by fear, we can also get the idea that relationships are based on control. Whether you say yes or no to another person makes more difference today than you may imagine. It is true that the person you're having this experience with faces their own uncertainties and insecurities. He or she is not the person you think. But they are worthy of your love and understanding, and besides, situations like this don't grow on trees.

**Gemini (May 20-June 21):** "By their works, you shall know them." So states ancient wisdom. What are the works for which you want to be known? Do you ever think of your life this way? Do you consider that whatever you do will have

lasting value; it's just a question of what that value is? Today is the day to emphasize the point — to put your best creation forward, and to live your deepest devotion. This is a privilege, and it's a tangible expression of freedom. You came here to play your role in life, and by this point, you know what that is.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** Something you've been working on for a long time now comes to fruition. It will be more than a concept, more than a possibility, and far beyond a dream. If there is a catch, it's that the cost of success is growing into that success. We must always be a little greater than our creations, always a little more advanced, and most important, notice the flaws in what we have made without necessarily having to fix them. Awareness of those flaws is not the same as perfectionism; it's about keeping balance and holding open the door for humility, particularly when we're at our very best.

**Leo (July 22-Aug. 23):** If there's an edgy quality to your life, trust the guardrail, and while you're at it, trust your own driving skills. You have every reason to do so. Clearly, you're working something out that is challenging and maybe even difficult, but the point is, you are indeed working it out. You would not have got so far if you were not working with substantial talent and the trust of key people. What you learn today will be more than reassuring; let it stand as evidence of how much you've accomplished this year, even if you have so much further to go.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22):** Sometimes profits come in cash, sometimes in trade, and sometimes in what we learn. While you cannot eat knowledge for dinner, you can put it to work. You are learning a great deal this week, and today you are likely to put together the pieces on something that has confounded even your penetrating mind. You may think it took you way too long to get here, and the rewards are way too little. But what



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develops today and through the rest of the week has lasting value, and these seemingly small lessons will, as time progresses, take you very far.

**Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23):** What comes your way today was something that was always yours. It's more like you're collecting on your own past and history rather than breaking new ground. But this was a debt long due to you, and in many ways, a debt you have owed yourself for a long time. But think of it this way: it's an interest payment, not repayment of the capital you've laid out. That will come in time, but for now, the dividend you're receiving will surely prove to be helpful.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22):** Sometimes you have to make a great effort to have something happen and sometimes you just need to be yourself. Today is a day for people to come to you; a day when you will, if you are paying attention, notice that you are being noticed, and seen for the enormous emotional resource you are. There is, as well, something to be learned from the encounter: how vulnerable the people you care about really are.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22):** Sometimes we get a job to do and it turns out to be a gift. Sometimes we get a gift and it turns out to be a lot of work. How you look at what you're being offered today is up to you. You could describe it one way or the other; the only difference is the spirit with which you proceed, and that spirit is rather important right now. If faced with a choice, I suggest that you take what you consider the more challenging and fulfilling path rather than the easier and more ordinary one. You may not think you have so much going for you today, but in about two weeks from now, you'll be singing another tune entirely.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20):** The benefit that comes to others comes to you; their glory is yours; and yours is most definitely their own. This is a day to spread the wealth around, and to make a point of how we all need to be grateful for the abundance of life. You're a messenger, and your own life is evidence that the message you're offering to the world is true. Actually, you could leave it at that, but your friends are counting on you for the most luxurious celebration you can put on, so go for it.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19):** I would hazard a guess that most people don't really understand the concept of a reputation. The mistake they make is considering the concept as something intangible, rather than something you can trade like gold, silver or currency. But really, it's worth more than all three combined, because a reputation is about trust. Ah yes, trust is often considered intangible, too, but I assure you that the trust people feel in you is anything but. It's also well earned, and well deserved.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Something or someone from your past is returning today with a gift. It may certainly turn out to be something you can hold in your hand, but there is another dimension, which is relief from a burden you've been carrying for a long time. The material aspects will take care of themselves; as an astrologer, I'll offer a psychological proposal. You have long suspected that something a parent or grandparent did was holding you back. It certainly seems to have. Today, you'll get the gift that comes with the hang-up, and which would have been quite impossible to have otherwise.

Eric Francis has more of your astrology for you at PlanetWaves.net.






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**The Queen of  
Moussakas**

By Marj Watkins

At Iannis Café on the Greek island of Spetsai in 1973 we enjoyed our first moussaka. Nowhere in the word have we found one as good, until recently at Johnny's Greek Restaurant on Bridgeport Way and Mt. Tahoma in south Tacoma. Today's recipe blends those two champions, adds a few more flavors, and considers allergies.

Once a year I make this masterpiece main dish for our son John M's birthday dinner. Moussaka is a labor of love that takes half a day to create. It's worth it hear the yumms and oohs and ahs, and taste the complex flavors.

**Marj's Best Moussaka**

You'll need: an 8x8x2-inch casserole or in 2 (1.5-quart) round casseroles; foil; 2 baking sheets. Makes 8 servings

**Eggplant:**  
1 large or 2 smaller eggplants  
2 quarts water or more  
1 teaspoon salt  
Spray olive oil

**Meat:**  
3 Tablespoons olive oil  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced, or 2 teaspoons ready-minced bottled garlic from produce section  
1 pound leanest beef  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper  
1/2 cup minced parsley, loosely packed (or 3 tablespoons dried parsley)  
2 Tablespoons dried mint (or 1/3 cup slivered fresh mint, loosely packed  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon dried, crumbled oregano (or 1 teaspoon oregano powder)  
1/4 to 1/2 cup red wine (Cabernet, or Merlot)

3 Tablespoons tomato sauce, optional  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup ground or whole white sesame seeds  
Topping:  
1/2 stick butter (4 Tablespoons)  
1/2 cup barley flour  
2 cups warm milk  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup thinly sliced green onion tops  
2 eggs beaten  
(1/2 cup grated Parmesan, optional)  
For Baking Dish:  
1 Tablespoon butter  
1/4 cup bread crumbs or 2-3 tablespoons flour  
To Cook and Assemble:  
Prepare the Eggplant  
Cook the Meat and its Flavorings  
Make the Topping  
Assemble and bake  
**Eggplant:** Preheat oven. Cut green cap from stem end. Cut eggplant vertically into quarters. Slice into 1/2 inch thick slices. Cut slices into 1x2-inch (approximately) pieces. Soak in salted water for 30 minutes. Drain well. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Bake 10-12 minutes on baking sheets, until tender and nicely browned. Reserve.  
**Meat:** Heat oil. Stir-fry onion, garlic, beef, cinnamon, and oregano, salt and pepper, forking the meat into grains or at least very small lumps. Stir in wine and tomato sauces. Simmer until meat is cooked and liquid absorbed. Cool  
Stir in beaten eggs, mint and sesame seeds.  
**Topping:** Melt butter. Blend in flour. Stir-cook 3-5 minutes. Cool a little. While stirring, gradually stir in warm milk. Add salt. Stir-cook until thickened. Stir in onion top slices.  
Assemble and bake: Set oven temp at 350° F.  
Butter bottom and sides of casserole or baking dishes. Coat bottom and sides with bread crumbs or flour. Arrange a layer of baked eggplant pieces. Add a layer of the meat mixture. Another layer of eggplant. Another layer of meat. Top with any eggplant pieces left over, then with the Topping.  
Bake 1 hour. Serve hot, at once if you can. May be kept in oven set on Warm for 30-40 minutes if necessary.

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**Madame T**  
**oujours**

Dear *Madame Toujours*,  
Here we are, coming up on the holiday season and once again, I am starting to dread the annual holiday arguments with my husband Richard. I should explain that Richard seems to have a lot of resentment about holidays in general, but if it were only that, I think we could get through the season without much trouble. The problem is that Richard seems to feel compelled to spoil everyone else's fun as well. Last year, we spent Thanksgiving at my parents' house. When my mother emerged from the kitchen with the turkey, her pores wide open and glowing from the hot steam, the entire family applauded. As my mother beamed proudly over her triumph, who should open his big, fat mouth but my husband. "Ah good," he said. "I see we're kowtowing to the meat industry again this year." (Richard is not a vegetarian—he later ate as much turkey as anyone). He then added, "Say, how about after dinner, let's go out and find ourselves a Native American and slaughter his entire family."

My mother was so crushed, she dropped the turkey. I was so mad, I ripped off a drumstick and beat Richard about the head and shoulders while screaming about the g\*#^&()#n meat industry. It took three of my biggest cousins to pull me off him. We came pretty close to celebrating Christmas with a divorce.

I have been taking anger management courses for several months now, but I can see Richard already casting me sidelong glances, and I know he's wondering just how much he can get away with this year.

Can I celebrate the holidays without killing my husband? What do you suggest?

Sincerely,  
Not Feeling Very Thankful at the Moment  
*Chere Mme.* Thankful,  
First, forget about the turkey (I am speaking of the dinner, not the husband). The turkey, he is the potentially deadly weapon. Instead, educate the children by serving for Thanksgiving the time-

honored pilgrim classics such as the fish and the eel pie. These are the authentic pilgrim foods and they are having the added benefit that they are not very dangerous. Cut all of the other food items into the very small pieces that cannot be wielded in a dangerous fashion and serve everything on the flimsy, disposable aluminum dishes. This way, you can relieve the feelings by throwing the candied yams at *M.* Richard without doing very much of the serious damages.

As for *M.* Richard, clearly, he is enjoying to have for himself all of the attention of everybody. Possibly, you are noticing this in other areas of your life. For example, possibly he is always wishing to have the loud, lusty sex while you are on the telephone with your mother. There is no point in the screaming or the tantrums. This is exactly the attention *M.* Richard is liking. The more you are trying to change him, the more fun he is having.

Instead, you should be taking advantage of *M.* Richard's sense of the drama. This year, why not propose that *M.* Richard is presenting a pageant representing the first Thanksgiving. Give him a headdress, paint his face and load him down with the holiday food items such as maize and pumpkins. Hand him a tomahawk. While he is pretending to scalp Uncle Horace, your mother can be slipping into the room with the eel pies. The children will be delighted, especially if you are encouraging *M.* Richard to make his performance as gory as possible.

Possibly, all of the attention is going to *M.* Richard's head and he is getting carried away. In this eventuality, you will be glad you were planning ahead by arming your aunt Edna with a rifle loaded with tranquilizer darts. Simply shoot *M.* Richard with a tranquilizer, dump him on the sofa to sleep it off, and enjoy a quiet Thanksgiving with the family. Everyone will be begging for *M.* Richard to be repeating his performance next year. Possibly, it will become quite a tradition in your family.

*Bon Chance Mme.* Thankful.

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# Positively Speaking

## Ted Haggard's Thanksgiving

By Deborah Anderson

It was a tough call at election time whether Ted Haggard's gay affairs or Sadaam's death sentence were going to be the pop culture swing vote.

I feel really sorry for poor old Ted. Really I do. For those of you who see yet another Christian clergy taking a dive on walking the walk as the excuse to bow out of being a part of a faith community, let me let you in on a secret. Clergy sexual misconduct is as common as kids learning to ride a bike. If the protestant church ever truly reveals it's occurrence, it's going to make those Catholic priests with their little boys look like teacher of the year. Really.

There was a time when I thought if I'd heard one more minister confess his insincerity in service or sexual addiction, I was going to encourage everyone to play golf on Sunday. It's just so annoying. I mean, for heaven's sake, Grace is one of the all time gifts of eternity. Why on earth would a person spend all that time in church meetings and never actually get to enjoy the privilege of the freedom, peace, joy, love and sheer fun and adventure that comes from walking the Christian walk?

Actually, there's a very important study that was done that showed that most pastors were not in the ministry because of God, but because they enjoyed being worshipped. They weren't very good at social intimacy and being a pastor gave them the distance from that little skill they needed.

So what? So, pastors' screwing up (pun intended) is no reason to ignore God and all the blessings God bequeaths us. Throwing the baby out with the bathwater is silly. Rabbis and Imams are just as human. In fact, God's biggest challenge has been getting the message of love and forgiveness to the laity despite the fact that some of his highest profile ambassadors are really bad at representing God's message.

As you push back from the Thanksgiving groaning board and prepare for the race to the New Year, may I make one suggestion (Why, of course, Deborah. Please do. I heard you say)?

Make this the season you rediscover God. Knowing you are loved by God is the best present anyone can receive. We celebrate two great truths about God in the next six weeks. First of all, that God will always protect us and supply our needs. If you're in a time when you doubt that truth, look for the eight days worth of oil in your life. Secondly, you don't have to do a thing about earning God's love. It's a free gift. All you have to do is acknowledge it. Say yes to being in a relationship with God. That's the starting point.

This season is a time of faith renewal. Share the love God has poured on you with others. Pray for those who stumble. Ignore those who would take you out of God's love and care. Take time each day to deepen the faith you have.

And to start with, Happy Thanksgiving.  
Love, Deborah

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Left to right: Sylann Abbe, Sierra Lemmohn, and Carl Fox, waiting patiently at the last session of Vashon 101. Loop photo

**K-12 Ventures Teaches "Learn to Earn"**

Three students enrolled in the "Learn to Earn" program of K-12 Ventures assisted the organization of the last session of Vashon 101. Sylann Abbe, Sierra Lemmon, and Carl Fox made the graduation plaques that were given to graduating students in the Vashon 101 course, and they were on hand the day of the last class to get the furniture moved, get the handouts passed out to participants, and to entertain *The Loop* editor's grand daughter.

K-12 Ventures provides job coaching and hands-on experience and training. If you would like to be a job coach, know more, or get involved in some other way, give Lee Ockinga a call at the Chamber of Commerce, (206) 463-6217.

**Who's Counting?**  
<http://icasualties.org/oif/>





Borat visits the Vashon Weight room to get thrown around by some weights. “I like Vashon, do you like me?” Borat asks.

Ernesto:  
Can you give us a rundown of the future home Basketball and Wrestling Meets? In English please; as you know my Español is less than stellar. But I’m working on it!  
Gracias, Frizank D. Tank

**Upcoming Home Events:**  
Winter Sports are here! Time to get excited!  
**Girls Basketball:**  
Tuesday, November 28 at 5:15 p.m. vs. Sultan. Watch for the Girls to make another run to the state tournament!  
**Boys Basketball:**  
Tuesday, Nov. 28th at 7:00 vs. Sultan.  
Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 7:00 vs. Foster. Watch for the B-Boys to make a run at their 3rd straight League title! The boys placed 3rd at State last year.

**Wrestling:**  
Friday, Dec. 1st at 7:00 vs. Puyallup. And Thursday, Dec. 7th at 7:00 vs. Steilacoom. Follow the wrestling team and their pursuit of a 5th straight League title! The team placed 7th at State last year.



Dan “Tree Trunks” Staab points to a spot on the world map where he fought a huge fire this summer. He was so busy he forgot to shave (P.S. This is not just a headshot. His body is there, but he’s wearing camouflage, thus making him elusive and nearly invisible to the untrained eye!)



Vashon Wrestling Senior State Placers. From left to right: Tyler “Freight Train” Gateman (2x state placer and 2x Cadet All American), Micah “Air Jordan” Sohl (2x state placer and Cadet All American), and Wiley “Wil’ Flower” Volker (State placer and Nisqually League Champion). Come see the Vashon Wrestling team rock the VHS gym on Friday, December 1st at 7 p.m. vs. the mighty Puyallup Vikings!

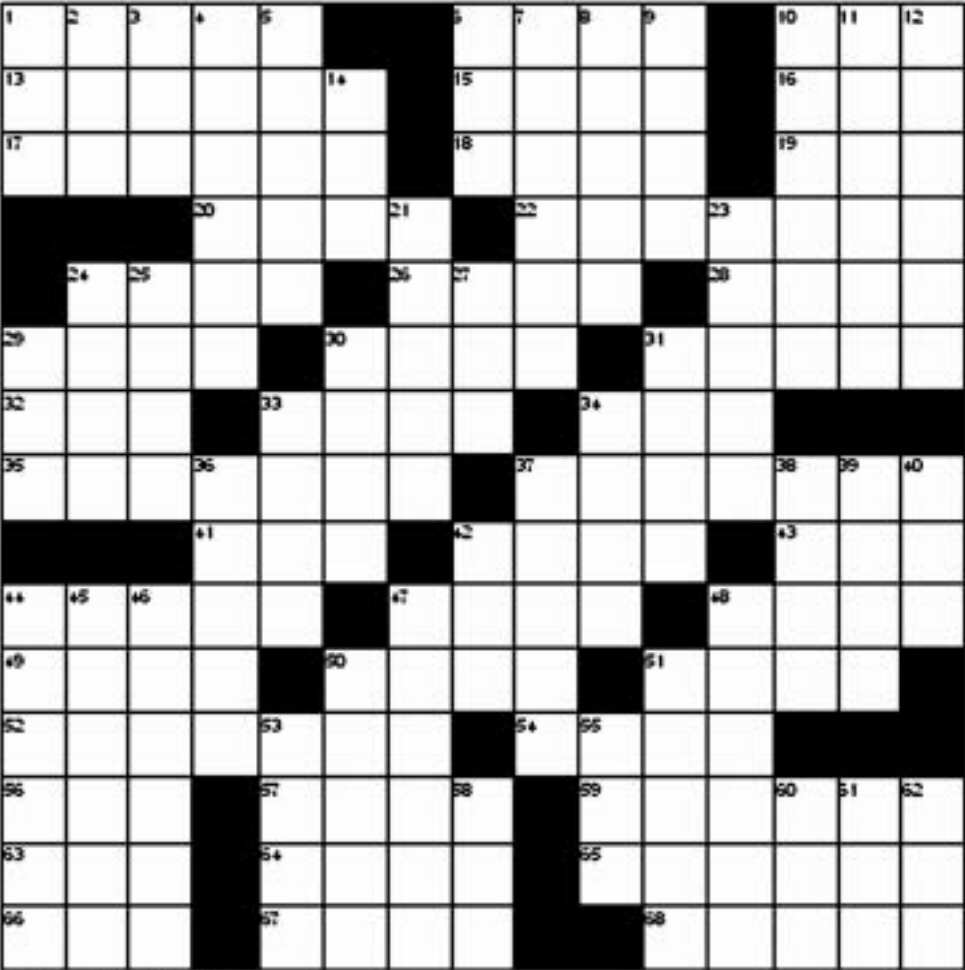
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Across

- 1 Seasonings
- 6 Middle East dweller
- 10 Fire remains
- 13 Derivative of opium
- 15 Knife
- 16 River (Spanish)
- 17 Musician Richard
- 18 Candy bar Baby \_\_
- 19 Executive director
- 20 Eagerness
- 22 Judy
- 24 Cover a present
- 26 Declare
- 28 Green Gables dweller
- 29 Roman thirteen
- 30 Rushed
- 31 Horror
- 32 Incorporated (abbr.)
- 33 Treat with contempt
- 34 Mongrel dog
- 35 Potato type
- 37 Imitating
- 41 Alternative (abbr.)
- 42 Family map
- 43 Scarf
- 44 Month
- 47 Violent quarrel
- 48 Telephone sound
- 49 Stain
- 50 Appear
- 51 Prank
- 52 Thin cloth
- 54 Hook
- 56 Airport abbr.
- 57 Pit
- 59 Infants
- 63 Put
- 64 Mined metals
- 65 What people do in their sleep
- 66 South southeast
- 67 Fresh
- 68 Was in a position of prayer

Solution on page 13

Down

- 1 \_\_ come?
- 2 Environmental protection agency (abbr)
- 3 Big truck
- 4 Miniature tree
- 5 Soak
- 6 Reduced (abbr.)
- 7 Put on make up
- 8 Lord’s table
- 9 Danish physicist
- 10 Known by few
- 11 “Raw” color
- 12 Like a monk
- 14 Time period
- 21 Rabbit
- 23 One of the Stooges
- 24 Draft
- 25 Costa \_\_
- 27 Animal doc
- 29 Roman dozen
- 30 Hit a fly
- 31 Fool
- 33 Fee
- 34 Dorm dweller
- 36 Island nation
- 37 Toast leftover
- 38 As previously cited
- 39 Taboo
- 40 Joke
- 42 Ball holder
- 44 Mother superior
- 45 Dishes
- 46 Twirl
- 47 Something that feels
- 48 Prize
- 50 Hold onto
- 51 Consumed
- 53 \_\_ ‘til you drop
- 55 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
- 58 Eastern Time
- 60 Wrath
- 61 Elver
- 62 Supersonic transport



# Lopy Laffs

I love you more today than yesterday—yesterday you really got on my nerves.

My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it. —Mark Twain

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother and found a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased. I turned to Mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" Mom smiled and replied, "Oh, I remember."

The best substitute for experience is being sixteen. -- Raymond Duncan

## One Liners

Sweets are the destiny that shapes our ends.  
Anybody can win unless there's a second entry.  
Classified oneliner: Please enter your password: \_  
I went to school to become a wit; only got halfway, though.  
In our family we bend over backward to be upright and honest.  
Classical music is the kind we keep thinking will turn into a tune.  
Being a husband is like any other job. It helps a lot if you like the boss.

My wife and I were browsing in a crafts store when I noticed a display of country-style musical instruments. After looking over the flutes, dulcimers and recorders, I picked up a shiny, one-stringed instrument I took to be a mouth harp. I put it to my lips and, much to the amusement of other shoppers, twanged a few notes on it. After watching from a distance, my wife came up and whispered in my ear, "I hate to tell you this, honey, but you're trying to play a cheese slicer."

Crossword Solution  
Moved to page 18

Show me a man with both feet on the ground and I'll show you a man who can't put on his pants.

Niagara Falls was purchased by Jean de Cou from the Indians in 1788 for \$5 and a blanket. He hoped to use its water power to operate a mill, but his investment was a failure.



Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. — Sir Winston Spencer Churchill

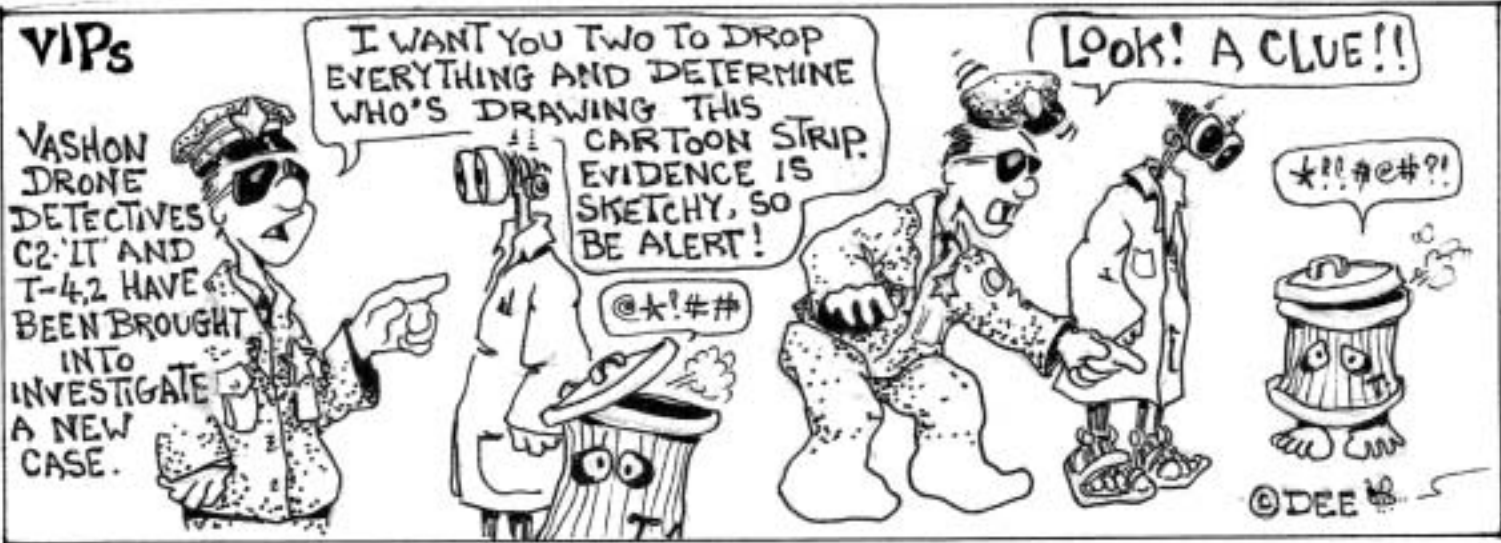
If one doctor doctors another doctor does the doctor who doctors the doctor doctor the doctor the way the doctor he is doctoring doctors? Or does the doctor doctor the way the doctor who doctors doctors?

## OFFSHORE



## Introducing...

We welcome a new comic strip this issue, "VIPS," short for "Vashon Island Peoples." The artist/author says, "I think I'd like to remain anonymous and go by my pen name Dee Bee. That way, my Mom won't know what I'm up to. She thinks I'm a notorious criminal involved in international smuggling. She'd be very upset to find out that I'm a cartoonist." Oh, DeeBee, we, like, totally understand. Thanks and a tip o' the hat to Sammy Giget, where and who ever you are, for turning us on to VIPS.





Loop Arts



Tom Rawson Courtesy Photo

Tom Rawson CD Party at Cafe Luna

Tom Rawson, folksinger and storyteller, will appear at Cafe Luna at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 2. Come celebrate the release of Tom’s new CD, which was recorded earlier this year, live, at the Victoria Folk Music Society. The new CD includes a song, “The Key of R,” written by Vashon resident Libbie Anthony.

Join Tom for some humorous stories, user-friendly songs, and acoustic folk philosophy that’s guaranteed to leave you smiling.

Vashon Allied Arts Holiday Performances

By Janice Randall

Vashon Allied Arts will present two must-see holiday family performances.

First on the holiday calendar, experience *Nutcracker*, performed by Blue Heron Dance Company, 7 p.m., **Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9**, and 2 p.m., **Sunday, December 10**, at Vashon High School Theater. Bring the whole family to the enchanting land of dancing sugar plums, leaping candy canes and pirouetting toy soldiers and you’ll be humming along with Tchaikovsky’s “Nutcracker March” for the remainder of the holiday season.

Christine Juarez, artistic director, says that *Nutcracker* will feature these senior dancers: Becky McMakin, Amanda Zheutlin (pictured) Maria Purrington and Amelia Juarez. Tickets, \$10 VAA members, seniors and students, \$13 general admission, are available now at Heron’s Nest, Books by the Way, Thriftway and Blue Heron. Call 463-5131 to reserve.



Tatum Schmidt plays one of several Woodstocks in A Charlie Brown Christmas. Photo by Janice Randall



The vocal trio of Brian Schott (l), Phyllis Smith (c) and Cindy Stirling (r) is just one group featured in the Vashon United Methodist Church annual Christmas concert, “Glorious Sounds,” on Sunday December 10 at 5:00pm. Free will donation will be taken to benefit Island charities.

Glorious Christmas Sounds at Methodist Church

Glorious sounds will fill the air at this year’s Christmas Concert given by the Vashon United Methodist Church at 5 p.m. on **Sunday, December 10**. The beautiful historic sanctuary will be decorated in Christmas splendor and the holiday music will fill the room with festive resonance. A brass quartet from the high school will warmly greet people with Christmas cheer as they arrive.

Featured in the concert will be the 20-voice vocal choir; the youth hand bell choir; the 5-octave adult hand bell choir; a vocal trio; and, for the first time, a local jazz group with a

didgeridoo. Don’t forget the audience sing-a-long which will include some old favorite Christmas carols. A good time will be had by all.

A string ensemble will continue the spirit by playing as people make their way home after the concert.

Please come and join us for a special Christmas celebration in music. A free will donation will be taken to benefit Island charities.



Dancers at October Ceili Photo courtesy hoilands.com

Thanksgiving Ceili at the Grange Hall

On **Saturday, November 25**, the Vashon Celtic Dance Society will celebrate Thanksgiving with a community Irish Ceili dance at the Grange Hall. Bring your holiday guests and work off the turkey and trimmings! The dance will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. and will feature live, traditional Irish music played by Bruce Singleton on Irish bagpipes, Judy Webster on guitar, and Jan Strolle on fiddle. Kathleen O’Grady-Graham will teach and call the dances. The suggested donation is \$8 (\$6 for students and seniors). The Grange Hall is located in the ferry dock parking lot at the north end. Ceili dancing is a “barn dance” style accessible to nearly everyone. No partner or experience is required. Photos of past dances can be found at [www.hoilands.com](http://www.hoilands.com). For more information about the Vashon Celtic Dance Society, or to volunteer, call Shannon Seath Meyer at (206) 774-4047.

Problem Solving Test

Question: You are driving in a car at a constant speed. On your left side is a “drop off” (The ground is 18-20 inches below the level you are traveling on), and on your right side is a fire engine traveling at the same speed as you. In front of you is a galloping horse which is the same size as your car and you cannot overtake it. Behind you is another galloping horse. Both horses are also traveling at the same speed as you. What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Answer: Get your drunken ass off the merry-go-round. (Thanks and a tip o’ the hat to Joane)

It's the wondrous holiday season

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Arts Tour

Continued from page 1

**In Good Company** (#6 in the tour guide), showing at the V a s h o n Community Care Center under the leadership of professional photographer Ray Pfortner is now in its third year on the Studio Tour.

These photographers have brought the walls to life with their views of vivid color, western landscapes, wildlife, Island and BC views and more. Available also are notecards, calendars and other holiday must-have items. The group will present a free slide show of their work at VCC on **Friday, December 8** at 7 p.m. at VCCC.

Barnworks

(#11) is the second oldest Studio Tour participant, bringing together a diverse group of painters in all mediums. Barnworks, founded by Sharon Munger, offers works in watercolors, oils, pastels, and acrylics, as well as printmaking, by the fourteen talented painters who bring their talents to the Barnworks walls. Although the membership of this group has changed along the way, Barnworks has been a fixture of the Studio Tour since 1984 and the preview party, held this year on **Friday, December 1** at 6 p.m. is a definite don't miss!

In the town of Vashon, **Quartermaster Press** (#35) opens the doors at the Land Trust Building and is an amazing group of printmakers. Each of these five artists takes printmaking to a new high. They will have framed and unframed prints, reproductions, and note cards for sale. Fuel up at this show from 10 a.m. to noon on scones and coffee and enter the daily drawing for a reproduction by one of the artists.

Gracing the walls of the Vashon Heritage Museum will be **POV-Photographers of Vashon** (#36).



Stacks by John Anderson ~ Point of View

Started in the Spring of 2004 when Island photographers banded together for the first time, this group consists of fine art photographers as

well as amateurs at every level of skill. This group first exhibited its rich and varied images on the Tour last year. This year's group numbers twenty photographers who shoot and exhibit not only locally but around world. POV will be joining the **Friday, December 1**, preview festivities starting at 6 p.m.

A little further down the road is the group comprised of **Mary Hosick Pottery & Fresh Paint** (#30) where the mastery in slip resist raku, horsehair raku, sager fired and also glazed functional pottery combines with the works of Fresh Paint. Fresh Paint started a decade ago with the concept of promoting the artistic achievement of women artists as individuals and a group.

Near the end of the trail and on Maury Island is **Waterworks Studio** (#27), offering the work of nine Island artists., This studio will be filled to the holiday brim with watercolors, sculpture, pencil and ink drawings, photography, prints and note cards, cedar baskets and brooms, handmade soaps, luscious lavender products, handcrafted Japanese paper lamps and nightlights, and unique stone jewelry. Island veterans all and long time artists, Waterworks Studio will celebrate the Studio Tour with a preview party on **Friday, December 1**, beginning at 6 p.m.

The oldest and loosest group on the Tour is the **Potters Tour**. The Potters Tour lays claim to starting the first Island tour of working studios 28 years ago. Now folded

into the Studio Tour, the Potters Tour soon gave impetus to the forming of the Arts Studio Tour. Visit Liz Lewis's (#15) wonderful colored earthenware, Lisa DeFaccio's sea-inspired forms showing with Island Jane (#19), Mary Hosick's (#30) raku and functional work, the Blue Heron Pottery on Beall Road, double decade tour veteran Irene Otis (#32) with her amazing tiles, and Christine Beck's functional earthenware designs at Waterworks Studio (#27).

So mark your calendars, make that gift list, party at the listed previews on December 1 and hit the road on December 2 & 3 and 9 & 10 for this year's Art Studio Tour, Holiday 2006. And don't forget that tour guide, available at from any Island business or online at [www.vashonislandartstudiotour.com](http://www.vashonislandartstudiotour.com) so you can visit these groups and all of the wonderful studios on this year's tour.



Horsetail Pot by Mary Hosick ~ Mary Hosick and Fresh Paint



Blue Heron Potters

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What About Grace?

By Devon Atkins

So bear with me; it's Thanksgiving, and I have a story to tell.

It was the start of last summer. I'd been at the Burton Hill home of one of the talented gardeners on the Garden Tour. I'd been asked to read a poem about gardens, and anyone who knows me, knows that flowers really aren't my thing. So, I went to that garden, looking for inspiration. As it turned out, and very much to my surprise, I was inspired; the house, the garden, and the gardener all inspired me with their stories, and I spent hours there, feeling as if something special had touched me, and knew I'd go home and write a terrific poem.

Quite pleased with the afternoon, I decided to drive over to Vashon Youth and Family Services, and deliver some paperwork that was long overdue. Feeling particularly benevolent, I stopped at Sound Food to pick up some sweets for my VYFS friends. Since it is Vashon, after all, I left my purse on the seat of the car, and took just my wallet into the Bakery. After chatting and choosing, I walked out with my bag of sweets, coffee, and my wallet, but, I when I got to my car, I realized that I couldn't carry everything I had, and still open the darn door! So, I put my wallet down, and got in the car.

The folks at VYFS were very happy with the cookies I'd brought, and I soon left there, eager to get out of the streams of walking teenagers and the chaos of High School dismissal. I, again, jumped in my car, and headed up the Highway to Thriftway. Ten minutes later, after finding a parking space and getting out of my car, I heard someone call to me, "Hey Sweetheart, is that your wallet?" My wallet? What was this man, hanging out of his pickup, talking about? I glanced into my car, fully expecting to see my wallet, face down in my open purse. But it wasn't there. I looked towards the man who had called to me, and saw that he was pointing to the roof of my trunk. And, there it was, my wallet, looking very much out of context with my car. I remember feeling confused, disconnected between what had happened, what was happening, and what it all meant. After all, why the heck was my wallet on the trunk?! Then, suddenly, as I noticed how flat and empty it looked, I remembered the way you do when you decide how to handle the crisis, even before you understand how the crisis happened. Throwing the wayward wallet next to my purse, I jumped back in my car and sped off, south down the Highway, realizing that having a choice between my wallet, my coffee, or the bag of cookies to set on the trunk, I had chosen my wallet (Don't ask me why; after all, it could have been a baby).

Now I was driving south, and it seemed as if every school bus on the planet was lumbering north. I tried, somehow, to figure out where the contents of my wallet could be, and exactly what was lost. My Drivers License, my Movie Magic card, my Little House card, my VISA, my mother's VISA...would they still all be on the pavement where I had parked in front of Sound Food? And, what about money? Were there any checks to deposit, or any receipts to keep? I strained

to remember. How could I not know what had been in my wallet? All these questions were rushing through my brain, when suddenly something blew up on my hood and then onto my windshield. There was my face in front of me; there was my Drivers License caught in the windshield wiper like a renegade leaf. I pulled over to the side of the road. It occurred to me, as I sat there, buses groaning by (my license still in the wiper) that my wallet's insides could be anywhere between Sound Food and Thriftway. I had that awful feeling that I always have at the Mall: too many choices. I got out, reached for my license, and decided to look around. I was just north of the Police Station.

You'd be surprised how much miscellaneous stuff there is in the brush along side of the road, and how easily your most intimate bits of life seem to blend right in. Cars were racing by, and I hoped no one would see me and think they had to stop (This is Vashon, after all, and people do stop). I stood and looked south, deciding upon a plan; how far should I look in both directions, and on both sides of the Highway before giving up and driving further south? I began walking and looking, brushing the grass aside with my foot or hand, and picking up anything I saw that was small, paper, or laminate. A pop can, a scrap of a newspaper, a muddy receipt, an old sponge, part of a book, and, then there was my Ferry ticket book. Oh my gosh! About sixty bucks worth of tickets, and I hadn't even been looking for them.

My next couple of stops, and exploring of weeds and trash, yielded nothing, and I was beginning to feel stupid and hopeless. I had checked at Sound Food and VYFS (I won't go into how kind and patient everyone was, and how ridiculous I felt), and was headed back north. I pulled over just opposite of The Country Store. Across the street was a woman. She had stopped her bike, gotten off, and was looking ahead and down at the pavement. She looked puzzled. I leaned out my window. "Does it say Devon Atkins?" I called. She looked at me, looked down again, looked back at me, and smiled. My VISA card. When I told her what I had been doing and why, she told me that she thought that I must be a very special person, that God must like me a lot. And, right then, I decided to agree with her.

During the next half hour, I found my mother's VISA, her State I.D., all three of my store cards, two other credit cards, and with the help of Helen, the Bird Lady, a Thriftway receipt, from the night before, rolled up and stashed with two twenty dollar bills (It was actually Helen who found it; and, if you know her, you know she gave me a hard time about it, before she let me put those two twenties in my own pocket)! Fact is, amazing as it may seem, I think I found everything that afternoon — everything that was inside my wallet, delight, and a whole lot of grace. It was amazing, but, after all, this is Vashon.

And, speaking of grace, come join us at next month's Poetry Salon, on **Thursday, December 7** at 7 p.m. at Vashon Bookshop. The subject is grace — grace in poets, and in poems.







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