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# THE LOOP

Vol. 4, # 12

TO INFORM AND AMUSE ~ TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

June 6, 2007



*Father Tryphon speaking with monks and pilgrims in the courtyard of Sretensky Monastery in Moscow, Russia*

## Father Tryphon Returns from Moscow, Russia

Father Tryphon, of the All-Merciful Saviour Russian Orthodox Monastery here on Vashon, writes, "I just returned from Moscow, Russia, this past Tuesday, May 22nd, where I attended to Unification Service in Christ the Saviour Cathedral. After some 90 years of separation, the two parts of the Russian Church have reunited. The Russian Orthodox Church, Moscow Patriarchate, and the

*Continued on page 4*



*The Virginia V. Photo Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives*

## Experience the Mosquito Fleet Years

By Bruce Haulman, Island Historian

The National Historic Landmark Steamer Virginia V is the last of the wooden hull passenger steamers that were called the "Mosquito Fleet" because they swarmed over Puget Sound like mosquitoes. The Virginia V's home port is Lisabuela and for much of the 1920s and 1930s, she carried passengers, mail and freight on the West Pass route. This summer Islanders will have a chance to experience a "Mosquito Feet" cruise around Vashon and Maury Islands aboard the Virginia V on **Sunday, August 19**. The Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association and Vashon College are teaming together to offer a "Mosquito Fleet" experience that

will highlight Island history, geology and ecology.

Tickets for the Mosquito Fleet Cruise aboard the Virginia V are now available, at \$60 for VMIHA members and \$75 for non-members. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Dick Gordon at (206) 463-5277 or email [gordons3@juno.com](mailto:gordons3@juno.com). Proceeds support the Island Heritage Museum.

The cruise will begin and end at Vashon's north end passenger ferry dock. Boarding will begin at 12:30 p.m., and the vessel will depart at 1:00 p.m. The cruise will run until approximately 5:30 p.m. Bring your own lunch; no alcohol allowed; soft-soled shoes required.



*Board member Bob Hennessey and Acting Superintendent Terry Lindquist discuss budget options after the budget work session last Thursday. Loop photo*

## School Budget Blues: Fewer Teachers, Larger Class Sizes Ahead

By Mary Litchfield Tuel

Last Thursday night at a Budget work session, District Financial Manager Brenda Hunt informed the School Board that the budget shortfall for this year is \$660,000, not \$360,000, as was previously believed.

"We underestimated the cost of benefits, and overestimated our revenues," Hunt said. "We are

*Continued on page 5*



*Caption-Margaret Tylczak's watering can will be one of a dozen on display and available to bid on, sponsored by SPLASH!*

17th annual Garden Tour

## Shhh...Garden Secrets

By Janice Randall

VAA's 17th annual Garden Tour is no secret, to be sure, but this year a special pre-Garden Tour event, "Secrets of the Garden," will happen **Friday, June 23**, 1 to 4 p.m. Designed with the serious gardener

*Continued on page 11*



*The Chain Gang. Backbone Campaign photo*

Backbone Revolution:

## Benefit Concert Features 30 Island Musicians

The Backbone Campaign will hold a benefit concert at Bishop's, **Saturday, June 9**, 8 p.m. to midnight, featuring 30 different Island musicians. Each will play a favorite Beatle song. There will also be a live and silent auction of Backbone Bodywork, (with LIVE demonstrations!) and an appearance of Vashon's favorite twisted criminals, the Chain Gang. Master of ceremonies Steffon Moody will entertain the crowd at this important fundraiser and sendoff for the organization's Atlanta trip.

*Continued on page 6*

# Get in The Loop

## VashonBePrepared.ORG

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Did you know that only 15% of the Island's phones can work at the same time?

Our telephone system is not designed to provide service to everybody at the same time. During a disaster, don't use your phone unless it's a life-threatening emergency.



And if you haven't joined a Neighborhood Emergency Response Organization: Do it now before you need it! Each NERO meets once a year to get acquainted and learn how to check on one another in an organized way if disaster strikes. Call Joe Ulatoski at 463-1321.

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

### School Board Members Needed -- File by Friday

The Vashon Education Association is encouraging team-oriented, collaborative community members to run for the School Board. Ideal candidates would be strong supporters of public education, with no personal agendas, who are willing to educate themselves on the roles and responsibilities of School Board members. Interested **candidates need to file their candidacy by Friday, June 8** with the King County Elections Board. Information is available online at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/elections>

### Orchard Tour -- Fruit Tree Care and Maintenance

**Saturday, June 16**, Vashon Island Fruit Club is having an orchard tour that will feature the care and maintenance of various fruit trees and berries. The tour starts at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Lu-Ann and Erik Branch at 7118 SW 240th St. (go to Maury Island south on Dockton Rd., turn east on 240th, go up the hill past the former Peter's Pumpkin Patch, and park on 240th). The second location will be at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Bob Norton at 6122 244th St. SW (continue east to 59th, turn south to 244th, turn west for 1/2 block, and park on the property). Nonmembers are welcome and can sign up for a membership on the tour. For further information, please contact Mary Ornstead at (206) 463-0565.

### Dr Marva J. Dawn Speaks on Island June 10

Theologian, educator, and author

On **Sunday, June 10**, internationally renowned theologian, educator, and author, Dr Marva J. Dawn, will be preaching at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Dr Dawn will speak at both the 7:45 a.m. and at the 10:15 a.m. services. She has also graciously agreed to chair the Religious Exploration hour at 9 a.m. For this hour, she has suggested the topic, "Being Part of a Larger Story: What does it mean to be a Christian in these crisis times?"



Marva Dawn

Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of the times that Church of the Holy Spirit is honored to host this woman of faith. A fellowship hour will follow the later service. The Episcopal Church is located at 15420 Vashon Highway SW, across from the Vashon Community Care Center.

### Car-Free Vashon Possibilities

On **Sunday, June 24**, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Vashon-Maury Island Green Party will host a community discussion on "Car-Free Vashon" at the Land Trust on Bank Road.

Pros and cons of biodiesels, use of electric car shuttles, ways to increase bicycle use, and working with Metro will all be covered. Panel members will include Duff Badgley of Ballard Car Free and an expert on the effects of biofuels; Tom Herring, a Vashon retired physicist; and, Wendy Van de Somple, a Vashon bicycle activist. The VMIGP hopes to lead the community in effecting a change in how we view our automobiles and perhaps serve as a model for how communities can become car-free. The Green Party of Washington State (GPoWS) is sponsoring this event on Vashon in preparation for a statewide campaign. For more information, please contact Maryrose Asher, Outreach Liaison Officer, GPoWS Coordinating Council, (206) 567-0593 or [dmasher@comcast.net](mailto:dmasher@comcast.net).

### Work at home

Part time or full time

## "Queen of Fruits"

We are expanding our business  
Watch the short movie on our website  
[createmysuccess.com/lawsonrs/webcast](http://createmysuccess.com/lawsonrs/webcast)  
Then call (206) 567-4511  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Pacific Time

Correction: the ad above, "Queen of Fruits," did not have the correct website last issue. The address has been corrected this issue.

### Vashon-Maury Senior Services

Seeking PROGRAM COORDINATOR to develop an exciting activities slate for active older adults.  
20 hrs/wk w/benefits. Please visit us at [www.seniorservices.org](http://www.seniorservices.org) or call 206.463.5173 for details. EOE



### Adopt-a-Cat Days

Vashon Island Pet Protectors will host an Adopt-A-Cat day **EVERY Saturday** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Pandora's Box. Please stop by or call VIPP (206) 389-1085.

### VIPP 2008 Pet Calendar

Be part of Vashon Island Pet Protectors' 2008 Pet Calendar and make your pet a star. Email your pet's photo to [kchappy@msn.com](mailto:kchappy@msn.com). All are welcome — cats, dogs, pigs, goats...don't delay! Photos must be received by **Sunday, July 15**. For more information call Kathy (206) 463-9203.

### Mental Health Support Group Meets

What can we do to help friends and relatives with depression or any mental illness? A support group learns from each other what may help. We will meet on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00 PM at the Presbyterian church. Call Sally Knutson for questions, directions, or help, (206) 463-2466

### Italian Wine Classes

It is not too late to join the series of classes on Italian wine offered by Chris Zimmerman. Classes will be held one Sunday evening a month at Ferrara Ristorante from 5 to 6:45 p.m. Pre-enrollment is required. To enroll or to get more information, please call Chris Zimmerman at (206) 567-5903 or email him at [zimvino@msn.com](mailto:zimvino@msn.com).

### Blood Drive Moves

The blood drive is moving next door to the Penny Farcy Memorial building this summer. Blood donation days will be on **July 19, September 20, and November 15, 2007**. Come on down and get your cookies and juice, plus the gratitude of a lot of people, most of whom you'll never meet. Blood Drives on Vashon are sponsored by Windermere Realty, and coordinated by Windermere agent Carolyn Amick.

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### Not Your Average Garage Sale!

**Saturday, June 9, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Shop for Christmas now! Gently used  
quality Toys, clothing, books, movies,  
and more! Go East on Gorsuch, just  
North of town...follow signs!  
Questions: (206) 463-0870

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you — Winston Churchill

### The Vashon Loop

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- or write (PO Box 253, Vashon) or email [editor@vashonloop.com](mailto:editor@vashonloop.com)!



# H HOME TEAM R E A L T Y

## Troy and Marie Hug a Salmon

*Last Saturday Marie attended a workshop called “Where the Water Begins: Land Management Practices for Marine Shoreline and Bluff Property Owners.” The workshop was presented at Vashon’s Land Trust building by the King Conservation District. In Marie’s opinion, this agency seems to be one of the better uses of tax dollars. Troy has no opinion, as he decided to sleep in that morning*

**Troy:** Hey Marie, how was your workshop?

**Marie:** Fantastic! I learned tons about Puget Sound shoreline ecology and geology, and how the growth and development in the area are impacting both. I also learned a few practical ideas for how waterfront property owners can protect their property while minimizing impact on the really complex ecosystem here in the Puget Sound region that we all depend on.

**Troy:** I know that property rights and conservation do not need to be mutually exclusive goals – but you are sounding suspiciously like a tree hugger.

**Marie:** Maybe. I am actually more of a salmon hugger. Did you know that the Chinook salmon is now on the endangered species list?

**Troy:** I did not know that. I'll do my part by eating less salmon and more Perry burgers.

**Marie:** Absolutely not. But we are not here to discuss your diet. Speaking of diet, did you know that 50% of a salmon’s diet consists of terrestrial insects? Isn’t that amazing? I thought they just ate stuff that lives in the water.

**Troy:** Amazing. But what do salmon have to do with waterfront property?

**Marie:** It’s pretty complicated, but in a nutshell the answer is that the nearshore area, which is basically the zone where the land and the waters meet, is hugely important for salmon – and the vast majority of wildlife here in King County. In fact, 80% of our wildlife lives in riparian areas, where water and land meet.

**Troy:** It’s not surprising that animals prefer to live by the water. Most humans do, too. OK, so we all depend on the water and the nearshore environment. Obviously, we need to protect the water from pollution. What else?

**Marie:** Work with Mother Nature instead of trying to fight her. She always gets her way, so you might as well respect her. The folks who put on the workshop showed some pictures of things that waterfront owners had done that were just ridiculous – like clearing all the vegetation off a high bank to get a better view. Some of these houses got a good view, all right – after a heavy rainstorm as they slid down the bank to the beach. A better solution might be to prune trees for a filtered view (which is often more interesting anyway). There are also places where bulkheads can actually cause more harm than good by undermining the shoreline behind it. And those black corrugated pipes that everyone uses to divert water to the beach? Hah! Those things pinch and buckle and break and often *cause* erosion rather than prevent it. The better solution is to use more durable (and more expensive) HDPE pipe to capture water and dissipate it before it hits the beach. Also, people who dump their yard waste off the side of the slope should not dump it in the same place each time. Too many grass clippings can kill off the underlying vegetation and cause a slope stability problem. There’s more, but we don’t have space for everything here.

**Troy:** I see you got a great little booklet that that tells about shoreline stewardship. Maybe if people want one, they can call us?

**Marie:** That’s a great idea. Call us at 463.LIST (5478) or email [marie@kwvashon.com](mailto:marie@kwvashon.com) for a copy. We can also tell you about technical assistance that the King Conservation District provides to homeowners who want to learn how to protect their property in an environmentally sensitive way.

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

### Stop the Insanity! Tell us about your DDES experience

Enough is enough! DDES is a governmental agency run amuck, and it’s time to shine a light on their often ridiculous behavior. They haven’t earned the nickname “Dysfunctional Department of Extortion and Sadism” for nothing. Don’t get us wrong: Of course we have to protect the environment and ensure safety in construction. And, in fairness, we do know some people who have had good experiences with DDES. But many of the stories are appalling. We recently heard about an elderly couple who got ensnared by Code Enforcement for building a small deck without a permit. The deck issue morphed into a septic issue, and now they are being told to make repairs that will cost tens of thousands of dollars that they don’t have. They feel their only option is to sell. That is just plain wrong. What’s your story? Want to blog about it - ANONYMOUSLY? Got to [www.yourhtr.com](http://www.yourhtr.com) and click on the link to the DDES blog.

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# Vashon Maury Island Radio Club Hosts Field Day

By Sharon Danielson, KE7HBZ

The Vashon Maury Island Radio Club will be participating in the national annual “Field Day” exercise, on **Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24**. It will be held on the field behind the Vashon Health Center and Granny’s. The public is invited to attend and speak to our members about ham radio. You will be able to see many forms of ham radio communication and even try your hand at transmitting a message.

Field Day was designed to test operators’ abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the



Phil Zook at 2006 Field Day. Loop photo



Ward Silver making contact at the 2006 Field Day. Loop photo

loss of electricity. Not only is this event a serious test of skill, for many clubs and groups it’s a social occasion too. During the weekend, participants try to contact as many other participating Field Day stations as possible.

Amateur Radio (or “ham radio”) operators throughout the United States will put their emergency communication and technical expertise to the test during the Field Day.

The annual exercise is one facet of activities Amateur Radio operators undergo to ensure they will be ready to volunteer their assistance with communications during disasters and emergencies. Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) — the national association for Amateur Radio.

defendants are George W Bush, Richard Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice, and Colin Powell. The crime is tricking the nation into war, or, in legal terms, conspiracy to defraud the United States. UMO Ensemble, the world renowned Vashon Island based physical theatre company, will be presenting a staged reading of short selections from Ms. de la Vega’s book. They invite everyone to come along and get a chance to be on the jury! The Backbone Campaign’s Chain Gang will also be present to welcome attendees. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Participating groups: The Vashon-Maury Island Green Party, the Vashon Democratic Club, UMO Ensemble, and the Backbone Campaign.

**Sunday, June 24, 2 to 4 p.m.** Vashon Tea Shop— Monthly book club meeting. We will be discussing *Peace is the Way* by Deepak Chopra. All are welcome.

**Sunday, June 24, 5 to 7 p.m.** at the Land Trust - The Vashon-Maury Island Green Party will host a community discussion on “Car-Free Vashon.” Pros and cons of biodiesels, use of electric car shuttles, ways to increase bicycle use, and working with Metro will all be covered. The VMIGP hopes to lead the community in effecting a change in how we view our automobiles and perhaps serve as a model for how communities can become car free. For more information, contact Ivy Sacks, Secretary, Vashon Maury-Island Green Party, (206) 463-9579 or ivys@centurytel.net



Father Tryphon standing inside the altar of Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow. Courtesy photo

## Father Tryphon Returns

*Continued from page 1*

Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia are now one. And I was there for a whole week of

pilgrimages to monasteries and holy places.”

Fr. Tryphon will be sharing some of his thoughts and experiences with Loop readers in future issues, but for now he has sent these two photos from his journey.

*Angeles Times*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Salon.com*, and *Mother Jones*. She is also a frequent guest on talk shows, including The Thom Hartmann Program, Democracy Now! and The Colbert Report.

In her book, set as a presentation to a grand jury, de la Vega brings her experience and her passion for justice to the most important case of her career. The defendants are George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice, and Colin Powell. The crime is deceiving the nation into war, or, in legal terms, conspiracy to defraud the United States in connection with pre-Iraq invasion intelligence.

U M O Ensemble, the world-renowned Vashon-Island-based physical theater company, will present a staged reading of short selections from de la Vega’s book. They invite everyone to come and get a chance to be on the jury! The Backbone Campaign’s Chain Gang puppets will also be on hand to welcome attendees.

This free event is open to the public. It begins at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:30. Participating groups: The Vashon-Maury Island Green Party, the Vashon Democratic Club, UMO Ensemble, and the Backbone Campaign.

For more information, contact Maryrose Asher at 567-0593 or dmasher@comcast.net.



Elizabeth de la Vega

## Elizabeth de la Vega Comes to Vashon Island

Also appearing:  
UMO Ensemble

Elizabeth de la Vega, author of *United States v. George W. Bush et al*, will speak at Courthouse Square on **Saturday, June 23**. De la Vega is a former federal prosecutor with more than twenty years of experience. During her tenure, she was a member of the Organized Crime Strike Force and Chief of the San Jose Branch of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California. Her articles have appeared in *The Nation*, the *Los*

## Island Economy Discussion

On **Thursday June 14** at 7 p.m., the VMICC Economic Committee meets at Courthouse Square. We’ll briefly review Island economic health, and discuss what to focus on. The topic list includes Island growth and benchmarks, ferry service impacts, affordable housing,

the K2 property, the KC Comprehensive Plan, agriculture, sustainability, and the legacy of the Energy PUD.

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.



## School Board Budget Blues

*Continued from page 1*

projecting that we will have a very, very small fund balance at the end of the year, if any."

The Budget Modification Plan which the Board adopted on May 17 will free up the \$360,000. Hearing that another \$300,000 was needed was clearly a blow to all the members of the Board.

Hunt explained that the actual situation is the same; but the figures that she and others used to craft budget modifications were \$300,000 short of the actual need. The end of the year Fund Balance will be approximately \$44,000, which, Gene Lipitz noted, is, "virtually zero. We are at zero."

Hunt said that the budget for next year will total \$13.2 million, and projected expenditures will be \$13.025 million, "if we do budget modifications, if everything goes accordingly."

Board Chair Susan Lofland added that Hunt meant additional recommendations for budget modifications, above and beyond those already adopted by the Board.

Acting Superintendent Terry Lindquist said, "If we choose not to fill the three positions which are not filled now, we should end up in 2008 with a \$220,000 Fund Balance."

"We need to look at the staff mix," Lindquist said. "It is not necessarily these three positions that need to be unfilled."

Teachers currently employed by the District might be qualified to move in to these positions.

It was clarified that the high school positions in question are 1 FTE Special Ed; 1 FTE Math; and .25 FTE Science.

Susan Lofland said, "Rehiring those FTEs would continue our living beyond our means. We have legal requirements for maintenance and transportation (as well as staff). The recommendations are tough to stomach, but we have to get back to living within our means."

"So," Lipitz said, "we'll reduce by 5.5 FTEs."

"In 2001 we reduced 7 or 8 FTEs," Hunt said.

Lindquist said, "I know how difficult this is. There aren't any easy answers. I would like the Board to consider staffing alternatives, and come back on June 14. Consider reducing 3 FTE certified staff, and one classified, as well as other alternatives." This would be in addition to the 2 FTE certified and .5 FTE classified reduced in the initial Budget Modification Plan adopted on May 17.

"There is no easy way to deal with this. Class size is not the only thing. Staff training is more important than class size," Lindquist said. "If we fill these positions, they become part of the problem. If we don't put a lid on staffing, it will be an ongoing problem. We have a projected Fund Balance of \$44,000. A one per cent error in the budget is \$120,000, and

there is potential litigation out there that may hit the budget."

Lofland said, "I'd be extremely uncomfortable hiring someone into this situation."

Jake Jacobovitch asked Lindquist to set week by week goals for the Budget process through June, "because the time limit to get it done in July is coming up fast."

"I can do that," Lindquist said. "The Board is instructing me to come back with three alternatives on June 14, and we'll need to make a decision that night."

"We'll need a second budget modification plan to go forward with the Budget for presentation," Lofland said.

Jacobovitch moved that, "At the next regular meeting on June 14 we have additional budget modifications for a decision item to address the shortfall presented at this meeting." The motion was seconded and passed.

Chair Susan Lofland concluded by saying that she and Terry Lindquist, with input from Financial Advisor Robert Boesche, and using the State Auditor's guidelines, would come up with better controls on budget planning and spending.

**And Furthermore...**

### Slightly Good, Slightly Bad Budget News

School Board member Gene Lipitz reported to *The Loop* that the morning after Thursday's meeting, Financial Manager Brenda Hunt was able to inform the Board that money for the Debt Service Fund is not all gone, as was believed the night before.

The Debt Service Fund is set up to pay off a loan taken out for the Capital Fund to do building repair and mold removal. Funds acquired in a legal settlement were designated to pay it off, and are still in the Reserved Fund Balance.

What is still the same as it was on Thursday night, Lipitz said, is,



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### Submit your Vote for the Doors of Opportunity Award

It is time to nominate someone for The Doors of Opportunity Award. This annual award recognizes and honors a Vashon Island teacher, administrator, or employee, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, who exemplifies a true spirit and grit that goes beyond the classroom to open doors and maximize students' potential.

To begin identifying candidates, we ask the community, faculty, students, and parents to send a nomination letter **no later than Sunday, June 10** to:

Doors of Opportunity  
Selection Committee  
C/o Vashon Community PTSA  
PO Box 2364  
Vashon, WA 98070







# Spiritual Smart Aleck

## The Great American Road Trip

By Mary Litchfield Tuel



*“Now I’ll eat another cookie, put the pedal to the metal, and drive, drive, drive...”*

That’s a line from a song I wrote many years ago, after making a screaming trip down the Sacramento Valley in the middle of the night. Driving 85 miles per hour in a Honda Civic hatchback next to semi-trucks also doing 85 is not the most secure feeling in the world. I guess it shook up my psyche enough that I wrote the song.

As I was driving home from Eastern Washington a couple of weeks ago, I was thinking about the Great American Road Trip, and wondering if it was a 20th century dinosaur that will pass away as surely as the petroleum made of dinosaur bones is passing away. I was also thinking of road trips I’ve known.

The worst: My dad had a buddy with whom he served in the South Pacific during World War II, and the buddy lived in Idaho. Two or three times during my childhood we made the trek from California to Idaho to visit. The year I was eleven we made the trip, and we spent our first night in Carson City, Nevada. We ate dinner at a restaurant called “The Pine Cone,” a name etched into my memory. My parents and I had the sirloin tips and noodles, but my 15-year-old brother had a hamburger.

We got up the next morning and headed out across the Nevada desert. Some time during that day, my parents and I began to realize that Something was Terribly Wrong. We made it to Elko, and checked into a motel.

We had the worst night of our collective family life. My father, my mother, and I were violently ill. So violently ill that if I had been the owner of that motel and had come into that room after we departed, I would have seriously considered giving up the motel business. I’m not going to go into any more detail than that. You’re welcome.

My brother was the only one of us who was fine, so we always suspected the sirloin tips and noodles. My brother had his learner’s driving permit, and he graciously offered

several times to drive, but my father declined. We drove on, three gut-ravaged invalids and one heroic teenaged boy willing to come to the rescue of his family but deprived of the opportunity.

My mother fainted in a gas station bathroom in Arco, Idaho. That was when my parents decided to see a doctor, a kindly old gent straight out of Norman Rockwell who diagnosed food poisoning and prescribed castor oil followed by a chocolate mint flavored stomach soothing mixture. I couldn’t eat chocolate mint for years after that.

We spent a week recuperating in a motel. In fact, I believe that is when I learned the word “recuperate.” Then we went to visit my dad’s buddy before heading home. No road trip since has equaled that one for green-gilled wretchedness.

The road trip is a classic American experience, made iconic by Jack Kerouac in *On the Road*. There is something about getting in the car and going that gets your blood pumping and makes you feel free.

Now that gasoline costs more, I wonder again if the Great American Road Trip will be history. The first time I wondered that was during the gas crisis of 1973. I can tell you from my recent trip over Snoqualmie Pass and back that a lot of people are still taking road trips, many of them driving RVs.

I suspect that our romance with driving is far from over – whether we drive a car fueled by gasoline, biodiesel, electricity, or whatever someone comes up with next. I think that if gasoline is no longer available, we will find a way to drive, drive, drive. Cars have only been around a little over 100 years, but human beings have always had wanderlust and the love of travel.

Happy road trips, Vashon. Stay away from the sirloin tips and noodles. And you might want to check out the Car-Free Vashon discussion at the Land Trust on Sunday, June 24, at 5 p.m. Ironically, you’ll probably have to drive to get there.

□□□□



### Total Experience

#### Gospel Choir

Saturday June 30th ~ 7 p.m.  
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Doors open at 6 pm  
for refreshments  
A Fundraiser for  
The Bailey-Boushaya House  
*Be there or be square*

### Backbone Benefit

*Continued from page 1*

Concert organizer Pete Welch has assembled an amazing and diverse lineup of Vashon talent. “I invited several artists to perform one Beatles song at the benefit. Although it won’t be acoustic *per se*, it won’t be a big amplified huge extravaganza either. Collaborations can be pretty cool, so I’ve encouraged people that if they want to do a duet with someone or have someone accompany them...by all means, these types of things can turn into some pretty special moments. It should be fun and something a little different than the norm.”

Musicians include Spoken Word by Erin Miller and by Brian Quackenbush, solo music by Sarah Church, Greg Dember, Mark Shepherd, John Browne, Bob Krinsky, Erik Reimnitz, Mary Litchfield Tuel, Mike Marlatt, Robyn Landis, Maren Metke, Hamish Todd, Patrick Bennion, Mark Borax, Sarah Christine, Brent Magstadt, and Glen Rukwid. Songs presented by two or three musicians on stage will be performed by: Ron Hook, Steve Brix, and Richard Lipke; Gaye Detzer, Annie Roberts and Mary Walker; Rick Vanselow and Kim Thal; James Clapperton and Colin Brynn; Rochelle Wolfe and Linda Hatfield; Gaye Detzer, Laura Cerven, and Elizabeth Nye; Greg Parrott and Frank Hein; Devin Sullivan and Chris Hayward; and Steffon and Arlette Moody.

Attendees will have a chance to bid on bodywork gift certificates and desserts will be for sale. Tickets will be sold at the door; suggested minimum donation is \$10. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; all ages are welcome until 9:30 p.m.

Since the musicians, organizer and the venue have all provided their services free of charge, all proceeds will go to toward the Backbone Campaign’s upcoming Progressive Cabinet Summit in Atlanta, June 26th, and the Campaign’s participation in the first ever U.S. Social Forum, June 27 – July 1st in Atlanta.

Several policy leaders – members of the Backbone Progressive Cabinet – will be at the Cabinet Summit, including Holly Sklar (Secty of Labor), Byllye Avery (Secty of Health and Human Services), Tom Hayden (Secty of Peace), Emira Wood (Secty of State – Africa), Stephen Zunes (Secty of State – Middle East), Eric Cooper (Secty of Education), Jakada Imani (Attorney General), Josh Silver (Chair of the FCC), and many more. Leaders of the Progressive Media such as John Nichols of *The Nation* and Matt Power of Liberty News TV will be part of the discussion, which will be focused on “How do we convey the message that progressives have the leaders and the ideas to run the

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Backbone volunteer. Photo courtesy of Backbone Campaign

country?” Progressive Movement Leaders such as Medea Benjamin, Tim Carpenter, Nina LaBoy, David Swanson, and George Friday will contribute to the day.

Following the Summit will be the U.S. Social Forum, whose theme is “If another world is possible, another US is necessary.” The Backbone Campaign will present three workshops and will orchestrate the first Procession for the Future at the opening day procession. A contingent of eight activists will be part of the Backbone Campaign’s team, including Islanders Doug Skove, Wally Fletcher, Logan Price, Amy Morrison, and Bill Moyer. Other Backbone Team members going to Atlanta are Diane Wittner of Baltimore, Linda Wiener of Vancouver, and Kety Esquivel, Spanish-English Translator.

Bill Moyer, Executive Director of the Backbone Campaign, explains, “For too long progressives have been defined according to what we oppose, neglecting to identify what it is we propose. At this potentially historic Progressive Cabinet Summit, progressive policy, movement, and media leaders will begin working together to develop a framework for communicating our movement’s propositional capacity.

“The Summit will build on the Backbone Campaign’s work over the past three years. In 2004 we initiated an interactive Cabinet Roster and nomination process. In 2005 we began a series of podcast/webcast conference calls (57 so far) called Conversations with the Cabinet, featuring our nation’s most effective progressive policy and movement leaders. Now it is time to take the next step and convene the first-ever Progressive Cabinet Summit.”

The Backbone Campaign could not do this work without the generous sponsorship of our Vashon community. Please join us in celebrating the spirit of revolution. We’ll see you on June 9.

# Don't Forget the Birds

## Bird Virus Update

By Ed Swan

The Washington State Department of Health started up its **West Nile Virus** monitoring again on May 31. Their press release at [http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/2007\\_news/07-085.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/2007_news/07-085.htm) provides some interesting reading. The state hasn't been hit hard yet but more may be coming if Washington follows the same trends across the country. An article out in May in the journal *Nature* also talks about how hard the virus has hit bird populations. It looks like it might be a good idea to regularly empty out the bird baths and eliminate accidental standing water in pots and other places around the yard in order to keep the mosquitoes down.

According to the Consortium for Conservation Medicine, the West Nile Virus is the most important mosquito-borne illness in the United States. Its introduction and spread across the continent resulted in over 996 human deaths and an estimated 280,000 illnesses. The Washington State Department of Health press release remarks that Idaho went from three reported illnesses in 2004 to 1000 human infections and 23 deaths in 2006. In Washington in 2006, the first three human infections occurred and 13 birds found dead tested positive for West Nile.

The article in *Nature* follows a study by Drs. Shannon LaDeau and Peter Marra of the Smithsonian Institution's Migratory Bird Center and Dr. A. Marm Kilpatrick with the Consortium for Conservation Medicine. They decided to study birds that past history indicated might most likely be infected with diseases from mosquitoes. Reports showed since the beginning of the onset of West Nile Virus in North America that crow and jay populations (both of the corvid family) plummeted under the

impact of the sickness. These scientists wanted to look at how wide spread the phenomena would be across a number of bird families. They looked at Breeding Bird Survey data from 1980 to 2005 and found many species hit hard after exposure to West Nile Virus.

The study demonstrated that different bird species suffered variably in illness from infection. Many backyard species, birds living in urban and suburban areas, such as American Robins, Tufted Titmice, Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees and Blue Jays, were severely affected. American Crows, Eastern Bluebirds and House Wrens faced less dramatic declines. Many of these species lost at least 50% of their population across a whole region with only Blue Jays and House Wrens showing some bounce back over time. We'll have to hope that none of the rarer species harmed by other factors such as habitat loss belong to the category of birds facing the most significant losses.

Here's the advice from the state Department of Health: "The best protection against West Nile virus is to avoid mosquito bites. Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active (dusk to dawn), cover exposed skin, and use an effective repellent. Reduce mosquito breeding habitat around the home by dumping standing water; change water in birdbaths, fountains, wading pools, and animal drinking containers once or twice a week."

In **Bird Flu news**, a recent review of research on the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1, published in the British Ornithologists Union journal *Ibis*, finds that the poultry industry remains the main vector for global diffusion of avian flu. Birds in the wild maintain a reservoir of flu viruses but the worst viruses depend on a high density population, such as in industrial poultry farms, in

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order to develop and then disperse. Wild birds found with the especially virulent form of the disease were infected by association through scavenging or predation of domestic birds or their food sources. No spread of the disease through migratory corridors followed the wild bird infections. Instead, poultry industry workers picked up the disease and passed it on to other humans. The distribution of the disease follows closely the major routes and patterns of human commerce. Correspondingly, the flu expanded its territory during non-migratory periods. The scientists conclude that the best strategy consists of strong veterinary observation and intervention in trade. They also state that the continued focus on wild birds takes away resources from the true cause of the virus' ability to reach new populations.

In **local birding news**, the last of our regular migrants arrived with Willow Flycatchers showing up near KVI Beach May 24 and seen by John and Ellie Friars. Chipping Sparrows, very rare on the Island, visited the cemetery and Alan Huggins' place on the north end of the island. On the south end, Gary Shugart saw the first Green Heron of the year at the Tahlequah dock. Usually they don't appear until fall. If you have an interesting bird to report or a question about local birds, call me at 463-7976 or email at [edswan@centurytel.net](mailto:edswan@centurytel.net).

With spring and summer slowly approaching, if you have visitors to the Island interested in seeing Vashon's birds, I am available for guiding tours to the best birding hot spots on the island or for finding particular species. Also, I visit properties to help identify birds present and give advice on attracting birds to one's property. Give me a call or email, I'm available both during the week and weekends.

### Island Birding Guide

### Species Identification

### How to Attract Birds

Ed Swan

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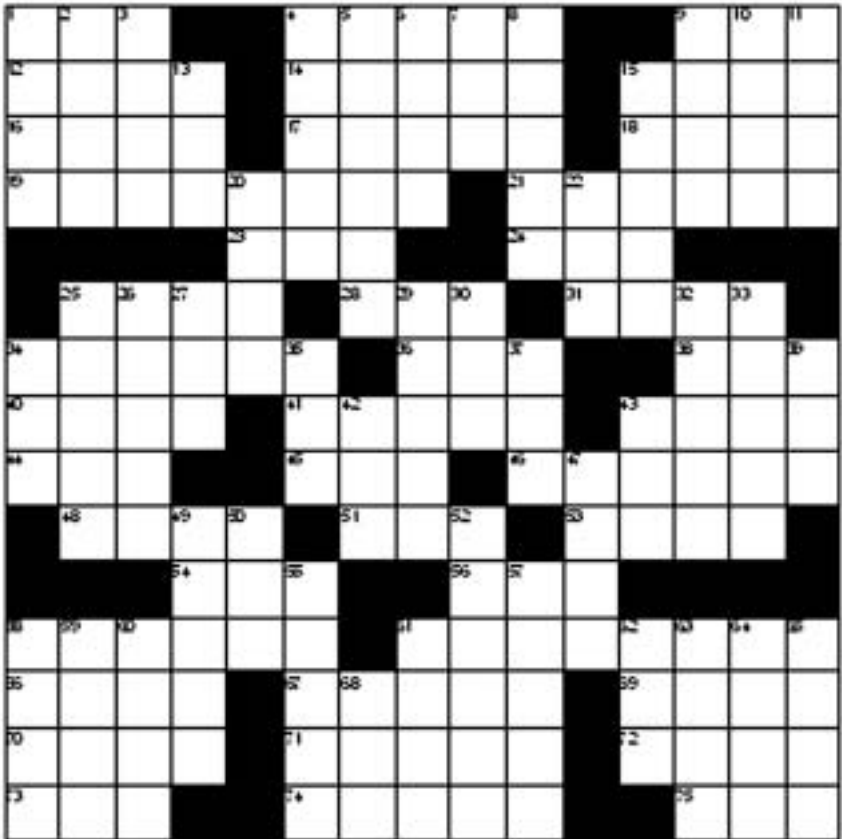
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## Festival Carnival Tickets on Sale Now

This year's Festival Carnival will be open **Thursday July 12** and run **through Sunday July 15**. Pre-sale tickets are now available at Island Variety and Video. The cost again this year is \$15.00 and session times are on the tickets. All unsold pre-sale tickets will be picked upon Thursday prior to the opening session. For any questions please call the Chamber at (206) 463-6217.



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# The Reigning Queen of Everything



## The RQE Learns to Walk in Anger

By Sarah Blakemore, RQE

Last we left the RQE her legs were cramping while sitting cross-legged on a hardwood floor in a sharing circle listening to Frizzy Hair yelling about walking in anger.

Now it is time for the rest of the group to share. We have to pick up the “talk rock” and tell something we know is true. Example: I know that Frizzy Hair WALKS IN ANGER. The talk rock is passed around and the usual stuff comes out of everyone’s mouth. “I know that bad body image is the result of an uncaring society, I know that there will be a woman president sometime in my lifetime, I know that I do not need anyone else’s validation for my life (then why are you here?????) and other such platitudes. Several of the women are crying.

Ethnic scarf woman grabs the talk rock.

“I know that I am angry. I know that it is not my fault my parents didn’t love me. I know that I am a strong woman. I know that... [insert another 10 minutes of what she knows].”

She puts the rock down.

“Pick up the damn rock,” my inner bitch hisses. I pick up the rock. My inner bitch seizes the moment.

“I know that 10 years of therapy was worth it,” my inner bitch says, looking around. I put the rock down.

One woman laughs and then is quickly hushed by the silence of everyone else.

The sharing continues.

We have to go around the circle and share what we want to over come. It comes to my turn. Well, let’s see.

I’m single and loving it. I’m writing/directing theatre that will soon be on a stage and loving it. I love my job. I love my apartment. I love my dog and my friends and my God child. What am I going to do? I have nothing to complain about. So I share this with the group and it is met with total silence. For a moment I think this might be the part where they drown me in the altar we are still sitting around.

The afternoon culminates in the participants having to stand in two single file lines shoulder to shoulder. This, we are informed, is a symbolic birth canal. We are now going to be reborn as empowered women. Frizzy Hair beats on the drum while chanting our “empowerment word” that we have chosen while Pudgy Friend orchestrates the birthing.

I am not, repeat, NOT making this up.

By the time Elise, Friend and I get through the symbolic birth canal, the afternoon is gone. Frizzy Hair and Pudgy Friend make a pitch for their empowerment workshops, which, by the way, cost hundreds of dollars. Uh, right. My inner bitch wonders if I can pay them in sticky one dollar bills that men stuff in my garter.

Out on the street, I break from Elise as quickly as possible. I am “walking in anger” because I just wasted an entire afternoon. To be fair to Elise, she thought it was stupid too. But I’m still pissed about missing a sunny afternoon to listen to a bunch of older women talk about things they should have gotten over a long time ago.

I’ve traveled in a lot of Third World countries, where women do not have the luxury of “walking in anger.”

Walking in anger won’t feed their kids or help them become literate. It won’t stop them from being raped and beaten by their husbands, family members or militia groups. We spend a lot of time in this country making up problems for ourselves. A bad relationship with one’s parents/children becomes a debilitating problem rather than something to get over. A fear of commitment becomes a badge of honor to be worn proudly – look at me, I’m scarred and jaded!! We make excuses for not having the jobs, partners and lives that we want, when, really, it is all there for us. “If only things were different, we could have what we want,” we tell ourselves. The only person holding you back is you. Spend less time walking in anger and more time looking at yourself. The results will be striking.

My neighbor, Weisa, is a 36-year-old Polish immigrant. She is a single mom of two kids, divorced from her alcoholic husband. She is learning English and putting herself through school. Weisa doesn’t whine, she doesn’t complain and she most certainly doesn’t “walk in anger.” She cooks, she studies and she has me over for the occasional glass of wine. My dogs play at her house with her kids. She goes to counseling to sort through some of the stuff she’s been through but she doesn’t waste her life “walking in anger.” She lives her life and celebrates the joy of it all despite the things she has been through.

That is an empowered woman. I, and my inner bitch, would happily waste a sunny afternoon with her.

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. — Alex Levine

Loopy sez: Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, June 15**

## Retraction

The publishers of *The Loop* received complaints about a joke that ran on the Loopy Laffs page in the last issue, and want readers to know that offense was never intended. We are sorry. We will see that it doesn’t happen again.

The joke was a line attributed to Charles Pierce, an actor and night club performer. Peter Mintun of the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote at the time of Pierce’s death in 1999: “His career included acting, and radio announcing, but as a female impersonator, Pierce has left his audiences weak with laughter, and brightened their lives with his wicked and sometimes irreverent impressions of film stars...” We’re sorry that this joke was a little too wicked and a little too irreverent for some of our readers.

## Garden The World

By MEarth

### Br’er Bear

At one point this week, through some quirk of fate, I had four related but unrelated articles on my desk. One was from the Sunday *Times/P.I.* about how Scott Fischbach had seen our young bear visitor jump into the water at Pt. Robinson and start swimming toward Des Moines (Washington, not Iowa).

The second was from the front page of a May 5, 1960 *Beachcomber* (thank you Rayna Holtz) about how Ronger Jensen had shot a coyote in Paradise Valley, west of Center. He had been reporting sightings for some weeks and no one had believed him. The headline read; “.30-06 Quiets Critics, Coyote as Ronger Jensen Proves Point.” The article also included a picture of Buckly Jensen, Ronger’s son, with the dead coyote.

The third was actually from a book called *Isle of the Sea Breezes* by Roland Carey, published in 1976, also provided by Rayna Holtz, which recounts the 1915 slaying of a cougar by Dan Landers in the Cross Landing area, off Redding Beach Road. Landers, at least, had some reason to kill the cougar—he had reason to believe it had been stalking his daughters.

The reason all these articles came together in my mind is because I had heard that some of the young Island hunters had gone home to get their guns and drove up and down the highway after the bear sighting had been reported. The first thing that came to mind was that people haven’t changed a lick in a hundred years.

First of all, it is a gross misdemeanor to hunt a bear without a license and out of season. It is also highly illegal to hunt from your motor vehicle. People who did not even see the bear were actively breaking the law and could (and perhaps should) have been cited. What the hell were they thinking?

Secondly, Sgt. Kim Chandler of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is quoted in the Tuesday P.I. as saying, “...no Washington residents have been killed by black bears in the past 50 years, even though Western Washington is home to more than 20,000 black bears.”

The proper thing to do, should you encounter a black bear, is remain calm and, as one Island woman learned last week, DO NOT RUN. Let the bear know you are there and that you are a human being—in my encounter with a bear, years ago, I just talked to it. It seemed to listen.

Do not engage in eye contact, which bears take as a threat—it is the

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cougars you can stare down, not the bears. Back away slowly and calmly. Likely as not, the bear will go the other way—unless it is on the trail of a particularly tempting garbage can.

It is we who have foisted out lifestyle into increasing numbers of the nooks and crannies that belonged to the bears since long before we came. If they do us the honor of coming onto our Island, they should be treated with respect and maybe they could teach us a thing or two.

I am glad to hear that numerous people did not have that reaction to the bear on our Island. There are more supporters of wildlife on the Island than there ever have been and I am glad of that. I agree with most of them—we must realize we share a planet with other big predators and we must find a gentle way to make peace with that. Such creatures are our closest relatives in this entire universe. It is high time we treated them accordingly.

Our brother bear, named Columbia by someone, was clearly headed somewhere. It is not easy to get from the north end of the Island out to Pt. Robinson. Did he cross at Portage? At last report, he was captured by Fish and Wildlife and taken to a “remote location in the Cascades.” I hear he was pissed off when they caught him and I hope where they took him was somewhere near where he wanted to go.



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## Home Is Where the Heart Is

An Essay by Alice Orr

I have done a lot of what the English refer to as “moving house.” I can’t blame my birth family for my restless spirit and its quest for something never long present wherever I happen to be. They lived in the same house from the time I was six months old until I left for college. Once, when they mentioned the possibility of selling our gray-shingled bungalow, I gripped a dark mahogany pillar between the living room and dining room and wept. I loved the look and feel of that house at 439 East Avenue in Watertown, New York, but I never truly thought of it as Home.

What is “Home” exactly? We talk a great deal about it, forever searching for one or running away from one or missing one so much we are stricken “homesick.” All of which indicates intensity. We are never lukewarm about home. We either burn to be there or yearn to get away. Anywhere that fails to excite such passion is merely a resting spot, a temporary stopping-off point on the road to our heart’s true destination. In my own history, three such heart places stand out from the incipient restlessness of the rest. In each of these, a special relationship occurred, a quality of love and caring not previously encountered, nor to be experienced quite the same way again.

First came Grandma’s house at 833 West Main Street, also in Watertown, a place I mention often. I’ve written of her garden, her kitchen, her bedroom but never about what she called her “middle parlor.” The front parlor was a special occasion room, saved for Christmas, family reunions and eventually her funeral. The kitchen at the back of the house was a workroom, where she toiled at a fairly urgent pace three times a day. Grandma worked in her middle parlor, too, but with her needles. Years later, when I discovered fiber art, I realized that Grandma had been a fiber artist. Her yarns, embroidery flosses and tatting tools were her creative media. She worked with them lovingly, and she included me in that love. I was frequently with Grandma in the kitchen cooking or in the garden planting. She was always kind and patient, but she expressed the sweetest tenderness while working in her middle parlor. She would stop stitching for a moment, reach down and run her fingers through my hair

in a slow, gentle movement and whisper, “Spun gold.” My grandmother’s middle parlor was the first place in my life that qualifies in my estimation as Home.

The second was only a few miles but nearly two decades away. I shared the house on Moffett Street with my friend Gayle and our several combined children. Gayle and I were both escapees from unwise marriages. My three Homes were havens of refuge as well as love and caring. Grandma’s house was refuge from my parents’ chaotic life. Moffett Street was refuge from the chaos of life in general, though it didn’t appear so on the surface, particularly the surface of our kitchen table. Each of our kids ate a different breakfast cereal, and each spilled some of it every morning. There was never time to clean up the mess before rushing off to work and school. Every evening we returned to a mosaic of cereals glued to the tabletop in a paste of milk and sugar that generally required the sharp edge of a metal spatula to scrape loose. Our Moffett Street brood was like that also, a family glued together by affection rather than blood. It would take the hard-scraping edge of sharp life circumstance to dislodge us eventually from one another.

A few more years and miles on, my third Home memory happens, at Burnup Road in Black River, New York. All of my life I’d hoped for but never quite believed in the One Great Romance that I would not fall but plummet into, crazy in love beyond reason and doubt. That love took flame on Burnup Road. I recall the bedroom most vividly, and not just because of the S-word. We told each other our deepest secrets there. We had our first technicolor quarrels there. We ate chocolate cake and drank whiskey sours there. Visitors to Burnup Road would marvel at our housekeeping. The living room, kitchen, bath and yard were always in perfect order. We were careful never to show them our bedroom. Not just because of the perpetual mess, but because it was another refuge. Our refuge where we could leave the baggage of the past at the door.

We have moved house one more time recently to yet another heart location, the neighborhood where our grandchildren live in Seattle. Our granddaughter wants to learn needlework. Our grandson spills cereal and milk on the tabletop quite regularly. And, though age mediates against too much chocolate cake and whiskey sours, my one great love and I still spend lots of time in the bedroom, now with two kids and two cats crowding in. Perhaps, I have found Home yet again.

□□□□□



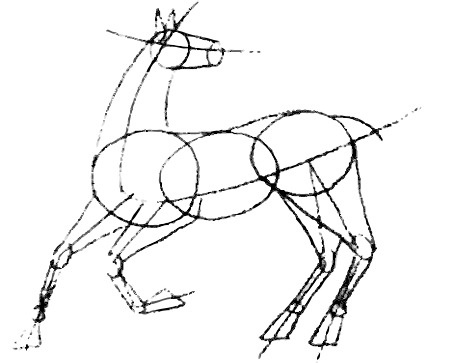
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## Single on Vashon

### Finding a Safe Place and Meeting Singles

By Angela Weiss

I moved to this Island for a very specific reason. Simply put, it is safe here. I was able to raise my boys as a single parent knowing that when I left for the day, they would be intact when I returned. The schools are great. The community is caring. The weather is tolerable both in summer and winter. Sure, nowhere is perfect, but this place comes close.

So, now that the boys are grown and gone, what keeps me here? Frankly, it is still because it is safe. When I come home after a long day, I can unwind or be involved, totally up to me. I have established my friends and community family along with new interests and hobbies. Everybody knows my name. At least it seems that way. However, though I have been single most of my life, now that the boys are gone I have discovered what this really means. Now, an invitation means just me, not me and the boys. I seem to have found a small crowd of 40-something and 50-something folks who have also found themselves in the same situation. There are a few of us but we keep ourselves busy with the activities we enjoy most. The friends whom we have come to trust. The community we have come to love. A comfortable circle.

So how do we find other singles on the Island? That is the question.

There is a group who hang out at the local pubs and they seem to know each other. There is a smaller group that goes to wine tastings. But what about those of us who don’t focus our time on alcohol? Don’t get me wrong, I love a good glass of wine with some great cheese or a delicious meal but Wine, although terrific, isn’t my main focus in life. I want to talk about books, current

## Tom Wallace

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who rode a crooked horse*



events, or travel. I want to attend the art tours and gallery walks as well as shop at the Village Green on Saturday mornings. I want to have dinner parties to explore my new love of cooking and attend dinner parties hosted by others in turn. So where does one find activities and companions when a primary reason for choosing an Island lifestyle is safety, both physical and emotional?

My gut tells me that we need to broaden the circle of known available singles and maybe broadcast that interest a bit. Invite those who don’t feel so safe to leave their comfortable circle or couch. Especially those men who tell the real estate agents that the main reason they are selling their home is because there are no single women on the Island. Are you kidding? There are so many of us but we don’t have a way of finding each other.

An idea whose time has come: In January, just in time for my divorce, I started hosting dinner parties for my single friends. This has become a monthly event. They have become so much fun that a few people are calling and asking to be put on a list for the next one. One call was from a friend of a friend who lives all the way over on Queen Anne. Wow, what does this say, that single men are calling from Seattle and Tacoma for a seat at a dinner table on Vashon? One participant has come from Tacoma for three events and counting. So, I find the idea works well.

**Next time: the ground rules for singles dinner parties.** □□□□□

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

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### The Dorsal Spin

The Dorsal Spin is undergoing a major transition and will return soon. Please continue to report whale sightings to the VHP at 206- 463-9041. Thanks to everyone, especially ferry commuters, for recent reports.

## PANDORA'S BOX


Hallelujah!!!Jenny has flown home from down south.  
Come say hello and shop on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday.  
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---

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## Lions and Tigers and Bears! Or Aunt Em!

By T Martino

Yesterday morning Henry (who is now part of Wolftown’s team and an old dear friend) and I followed my little sheep dog Cap through the woods to try to spot where a bear was holing up in the warm part of the day.

Funny, this was not east of the mountains, but on Vashon. Cap the sheep dog is just recently learning tracking work which by the way helps us with our non-invasive field work studies off-Island. Cap finds this rather amusing from the daily grind of moving a flock of rams and another flock of ewes and lambs to the various pastures around Wolftown.

Cap followed scent ‘til Henry and I spotted tracks and scat of a black bear. While we walked, thoughts came and went through my mind.

I had received about ten calls about the bear and I personally spoke to sheriff officials and State Fish and Wildlife numerous times within the past several days.

The bear brought up many things to me.

The first is the fact that people freaked out. Now please realize the majority of people on Vashon didn’t freak but the more freaked ones called me right away. Maybe some of you that are not freaking need to call me so I can balance this somehow. And those who did freak, I understand you freaked because you were faced with the unknown and you were truly concerned for yourselves, the bear and your pets, livestock and gardens...in that order.

A refreshing change from dealing with a Montana rancher who has lost four horses and two calves to grizzly and wolf. They freak in an entirely different way. It can involve much cursing and waving of weapons and shovels...but usually can be worked out.

But I needed to look at this closely.

First those that were concerned with safety issues. Black bears do not consider people food. They can attack people...but folks, THIS IS EXTREMELY RARE! The bear on-Island had been frightened by what it thought was a terrible danger and had scrambled 12 feet up a tree to escape — horror of bear horrors — a 75-year-old grandma looking out



Sheep dog Cap. He is learning to track, and practiced tracking the bear. Wolftown photo

a window at it. Ahhhhhhhhhh! Run away!

Bears are actually very shy. How many of you have seen them in the wild? As Henry and I walked through the forest of Vashon we were in what many would call suburbia...5 acres and a house but with a thick belt of trees between. These are wildlife corridors. Henry and I walked with all our equipment, with a dog that had a bell on, and people surrounded us and they did not see us. Bears are like that. You don’t see them, they are hiding! This is because they are scared of people. And Henry and I were much more conspicuous and I lost my shoe and got trapped by branches on MY idea of a trail. When I take interns off-Island I really have to LOOK to find bears.

Now here’s the rub. That is mostly true of adult bears. This is because they have lived a season or two and know that people hunt them. So they learn to avoid people. Juvenile bears like the one on Island have not learned this lesson. That bear had been probably chased off his territory by an adult. Black bears breed in June.

Someone told me they were keeping their children home from school because of bears. This was interesting.

I grew up where there were bears and lion and MANY rattlesnakes. Funny — the rattlesnakes liked to rest on our porch and my Pop was always sweeping them off. Sometimes he ate them, too, which helped control the population but that’s another story. My relatives taught us from a very early age what to do around wildlife.

Common sense things like, don’t run. Keep your eyes open. Stay with your brothers, yell, look taller. Don’t bother young cubs, don’t bother carcasses...and the biggest one: Do not bring it home!

The last thing was a really big one for my family.

I guess I thought everyone had learned this as a child but I guess not. But it’s OK to learn this now.

On the bear’s side is it better for the bear to be here or elsewhere? Hum? Well the bear chose to come here. He sought out a place where I had seen bears in times past on Vashon. It has good berrying potential.

It is good for our ecosystem to have the bear here. For one because of carrion which Wolftown is no longer taking. By the way, the scat we found was 95% plant material. Bears try to eat the easiest things to find and catch. Prey that does not run fast - like berries, shoots, grass and dead stuff.

As far as your pets are concerned: Keep your pet food inside. Do not let your dog chase bears. When I was a kid we did not let our dogs out to run unattended. This was because they, being hunting dogs, would run deer or livestock and get shot. They also could get bit by rattlesnakes that my Father had not eaten yet.

Our dogs treed bobcat and lion occasionally and so I think they were savvy on the cat end of things.

I got called out by a local Vashon Sheep person and they were concerned about letting their flock out to graze after sighting the bear recently. A mature ewe can out-dodge a bear if she has enough room. And the bear is going to think, hum, this is too hard. But this flock had garbage cans, in containers which was good, but right next to the sheep pens. So that needed to be moved. Also 4 strands of heavily charged hot wire set at different heights will deter most black bears. This also helps with gardens.

And your garbage and gardens can also be kept free of deer, dogs, and raccoons with hot wire. Raccoons carry a parasite that frankly I fear more than any bear. And I do worry about our deer with their parasite load. The bear could

help with these things. Read my article on Wolftown’s blog called Balance.

You folks are my community and I love you even though sometimes you kinda baffle me. But I am sure I do the same to you sometimes. Please know that I will help at any time day or night if you have any problem with the bear.

And I will help Fish and Wildlife or the Sheriff remove him if he is a problem. But the law says they have to ask me. But I hope we can learn to live with him. When I saw his tracks in the forest leaf litter of Vashon...I thought of my childhood. There’s no place like home!

### More Wolftown News: Check that Snag

T Martino of Wolftown Sanctuary reports that they were called the other day to rescue a litter of raccoon kits. An Islander was landscaping his yard and knocked over a tree snag, only to discover that it was being used as a nursery by a raccoon mother.

“They called us right away, which was the right thing to do, and were very gracious about helping us find a safe place to put the babies where their mom would come back and find them,” Martino said.

Martino has been working with wolves since 1984 and Wolftown has had a 501-3 C non-profit status for ten years.

“We do a talk the last Friday each month at Back Bay Inn,” Martino said, for people interested in learning about wildlife and Wolftown.

### Progressive/Green Party Film Discussion Series

**Sound & Fury** ( 2000) is this month’s film. It will show on **Thursday, June 14**, at 6:45 p.m. 80 minutes NR. Josh Aronson’s remarkable documentary takes an unexpected approach to the “medical miracle” film by examining the political and emotional turmoil that erupts between brothers over the cochlear implant that might allow their deaf children to hear. The ways in which a so-called miracle cure can divide as well as heal families and communities is the focus of Sound and Fury, which explores with almost painful intimacy the politics of disability. Oscar nominated for Best Documentary Feature.



The famous photo: Bear on Gorsuch Road with car escort. Photo by Maria Winkler, King County Noxious Weeds official



Patti Kiriazis at Pt. Robinson. Photo by Molly O'Brien

## Joan Hanna’s Barn: Movement on Maury

By Brenda Howald

Many Islanders know of Joan Hanna’s barn – that glorious studio where movement of all kinds takes place, that sun-drenched, beautifully-floored structure nestled away in a meadow dotted with statues of the Buddha and flowerbeds, the place where many a dancer has surely stood and thought: I’ve died and gone to Heaven. This is it.

Joan created the studio in the late 80s after returning from Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado where she studied Dance and Theater Improvisation. For many previous years, she was an instructor of yoga and Tai Chi. In the decades since, Hanna’s barn has housed classes across a broad spectrum of movement, music and theater.

New to the barn this summer is **Moving At Midlife** with Brenda Howald, a modern dance class for adults where you stretch, strengthen, and learn to move effortlessly from your core. This Monday morning, 10 to 11:30 a.m., class will begin **Monday, June 11**, and includes patterns from Bartenieff Movement Fundamentals, yoga, and Feldenkrais work. The format is one of basic locomotor patterns in space, floor work, standing strengthening work, and dance combinations across the floor. Both trained and non-trained dancers do fine with this material. Brenda danced with Dance Kaleidium of St. Louis and Co-motion Dance in Seattle, of which she was a founding member. If you’ve been partner dancing and want to break out on your own, if you simply want to get out the kinks, or if you’re new to movement altogether, this is your class. Brenda is also looking to start an evening class on Wednesday or Thursday evenings in another location in Vashon, so if you’re interested in evening slots only, or for any

questions about the class, please call her at (206) 463-4080.

On-going is Joan’s **Contemplative Dance Practice** which meets **Friday mornings** from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and includes meditation, personal warm up, interacting in Open Space, and writing/drawing. Class fee is on a donation basis. Joan’s **Monday Mornings**, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., is a class in which new themes are introduced each week, an approach that focuses on investigating the use of the body in everyday movement, a session where, as Joan says “Rest is always waiting to be recognized, Just a breath away.” For questions call Joan at (206) 463-3530.

Another on-going favorite is **Yoga** with Patti Kiriazis on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings**, which presents Patti’s blend of Hatha and Kundalini yoga to folks of a varying age and fitness range. The intermediate level class meets from 9 to 10:30 a.m., both days, and an easier class follows called “floorwork/gentle” from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. both days. Patti’s yoga experience is vast, beginning with her studies with renowned teacher Marie Svbodya, and followed by 20 years of teaching in venues all over the Island, including The Vashon Athletic Club, K-2, Ober Park and the YMCA. Patti brings to her approach a solid knowledge of how to successfully work through injury within the class discipline. For questions, call Patti at (206) 567-0018.

Future possible offerings at the barn include a Lotte Berk method Exercise class with Carol Eggen, which is a non-aerobic, non-high impact method of working the body. Those interested in a class should contact Carol at 567-0066.

Come on down to the barn at 7712 S.W. Point Robinson Road (Call individual teachers for directions).



Patti Kiriazis. Photo by Molly O'Brien

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## Annual Garden Tour

*Continued from page 1*

in mind, participants will spend more intimate time with gardeners whose gardens have been featured publications such as *Pacific Magazine*, *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Design*, *Sunset* and more.

DIG owners Sylvia Matlock and Ross Johnson invite participants into their garden sanctuary to learn how 17 years of gardening have been reinforced with a striking new exterior on their home. Cindy and Steve Stockett will tour participants through recently redesigned and refurbished beautifully designed garden rooms and water features. In addition, the Stocketts will share secrets of how to have a successful, abundant garden, good plant combinations, citing plants ideally, and how to integrate design elements.

“Secrets” will include plant lists from both gardens. Complimentary refreshments provided at DIG, courtesy of The Monkey Tree. Tickets for “Secrets of the Garden” are \$55 per person or \$70 (includes weekend Garden Tour ticket) and are available by calling Blue Heron Art Center, (206) 463-5131.

As for Garden Tour itself, you won’t want to miss the five fabulous gardens, along with art, music and poetry. And don’t forget to bid on your favorite watering can, creatively embellished by Island artists! VAA’s annual Garden Tour is graciously sponsored by John L. Scott. Additional sponsors include Vashon Thriftway, Puget Sound Energy, DIG and SPLASH and JR Crawford. Tickets are available now by calling Blue Heron, (206) 463-5131. See you at the Garden Tour!





# Herbs That Quiet Inflammation

By Kathy Abascal

Inflammation plays an important role in healing. In chronic diseases, however, inflammation tends to complicate healing. In fact, it is hard to think of a chronic disease that does not involve some degree of undesirable inflammation. Hypertension, heart problems, joint problems, Alzheimer's, eczema, and intestinal disorders all involve inflammation. Often anti-inflammatory drugs are prescribed to suppress this inflammation and quiet its uncomfortable effects. However, studies increasingly show that long term use of these drugs may actually worsen the underlying disease, especially in osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. In addition, anti-inflammatory drugs have significant side effects.

Have you ever read the warnings on some of the c o m m o n prescriptions for pain and inflammation? Ibuprofen warns "this medicine can increase your risk of life-threatening heart or circulation problems, including heart attack or stroke. This medicine can also increase your risk of serious effects on the stomach or intestines, including bleeding or perforation (forming of a hole). These conditions can be fatal and gastrointestinal effects can occur without warning at any time while you are taking ibuprofen. Older adults may have an even greater risk of these serious gastrointestinal side effects." Tylenol is harmful to the liver and its use is associated with some 25,000 hospitalizations, and 450 deaths every year. A study testing the use of Aleve in Alzheimer's disease was stopped because those on Aleve had about a 50 percent greater chance of suffering strokes or heart attacks than those taking the placebo. Celebrex and Vioxx are now used very cautiously because of their ability to cause strokes and heart attacks. Overall, the drugs we typically use to quiet the pain of inflammation are far from benign.

Many herbs can be used as an alternative to these anti-inflammatory drugs. Although often called "anti-inflammatory," these herbs do not simply suppress inflammation.



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 recently started a blog which you can read at [www.herbsandinfluenza.com/blog](http://www.herbsandinfluenza.com/blog). You can email her if you have questions about herbs ([Anemopsis@yahoo.com](mailto:Anemopsis@yahoo.com)) or you can stop by the Roasterie on Friday afternoons to discuss any aspect of herbal medicine with her in person. You can buy Kathy Abascal's 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>.



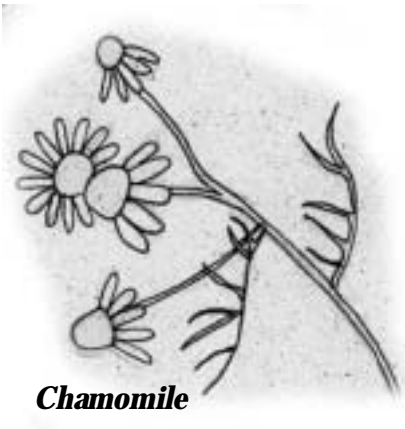
Instead, they moderate and temper it. They act on multiple targets, and generally do not act as strongly on a single target as drugs do. The result is a gentler, slower onset of action coupled with vastly reduced or absent adverse effects compared to fast-acting, powerful but more toxic drugs.

*Curcuma longa* (turmeric) and *Matricaria recutita* (chamomile) are two well known herbs that can be used to quiet inflammation.

Turmeric root is a relative of ginger and is a common cooking spice in many cultures. Its components work on a wide range of the different aspects of our inflammatory response. Most studies have looked only at one of t u r m e r i c ' s c o m p o n e n t s , curcumin, but many of its other constituents have also a quieting effect on an out-of-balance inflammation response. But, unlike anti-inflammatory drugs, turmeric is not sufficiently powerful to suppress inflammatory pathways to the point that adverse effects occur. It does not cause stomach bleeds or ulcers. In fact, it has been used as a treatment for stomach ulcers. It protects the liver and in animals helped protect against the liver damage from Tylenol.

Studies show that turmeric is as effective as phenylbutazone, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, at reducing postoperative inflammation. Turmeric in combination with other herbs like *Withania somnifera* (ashwagandha) and/or *Boswellia carteri* (olibanum, frankincense) quieted the symptoms of osteoarthritis. It also relieved symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis but did not do so quite as efficiently as the drug phenylbutazone. Turmeric is very safe and appears to help prevent liver damage, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease as well as quiet inflammation.

Chamomile flowers also have a significant ability to quiet



Chamomile

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## Learn more about quieting inflammation:

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Being overweight is an inflammatory condition that takes a toll on your health. In this series of 5 classes you will learn how to use diet and herbs to quiet inflammation and improve your health. A significant side benefit is a relatively effortless weight loss, improved sleep, and the disappearance of annoying aches and pains. A new class series begins **Thursday June 14** at 6 p.m. Advance registration is required. For more information, contact Kathy Abascal (463-9211 or [anemopsis@yahoo.com](mailto:anemopsis@yahoo.com)) or pick up a class outline at the Roasterie.

### Panel Presentation on inflammation

Join Kathy Abascal and other health practitioners for a discussion on how diet, herbs, and body work can help you reduce chronic inflammation and pain. **Wednesday June 13** at the Vashon Library 6:30-8:30 p.m.

quiet the symptoms of your particular problem, you will be able to "save" the anti-inflammatory drugs for occasional flare ups when you really need to suppress the entire inflammatory process. This way, you will not need to rely on drugs with substantial side effects on a day-to-day basis and will benefit from a more integrated approach to wellbeing that melds the best of modern and traditional medicine.

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Planet Waves

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



**Aries (March 20-April 19):** Your chart is giving the impression you're living at work these days. If so, I suggest you bring in a real toaster oven rather than a microwave. In fact, bring in home-cooked meals and bring enough for everyone. What are you up to, anyway? Regardless, your aspirations, be they money-making, creative or just generically ambitious, feed yourself well and keep those in your environment fed well. I tell you, just below the surface, this is all about food, and the connection between your emotions and food. This is the time to have all those mysteries reveal themselves, and to get a grasp on what's really good for you.

**Taurus (April 19-May 20):** You seem, once again, to be feeling cramped in your environment or attitude. Stick with it. Within that feeling are many layers of information, each of which contains specific advice to yourself about what you need. Dialog with a partner is essential now: they, too, are sensing the inevitable brink that you are crossing over, which is none other than a bridge to the here and now. That bridge involves reckoning with so much you have experienced in the past. It involves burying the dead, saying goodbye to those lost and forgotten, and affirming that you are indeed quite alive and in the midst of your life.

**Gemini (May 20-June 21):** Keep clearing out the clutter and making room for what is new. The more junk you get rid of, the more space you will have for feeling, for breathing and generally for feeling like you have enough space to live. Much of what you are getting rid of are things that hold an emotional attachment to the past. I don't suggest you just throw them on the fire, however; take a little time and feel the sensations associated with these things, particularly if they belonged to your parents. Once you've made contact, say goodbye and let go of them.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** To be in the present, one must let go of the past. That requires a grieving process, or some other conscious way of releasing what existed before. You can feel that you're really letting go in part because of the uncertain sense of the future. Make friends with that uncertainty, if you have not already done so. It is rich; it is full of life and more than anything, it begs the question of what you want. Once you know what you did not

want, and what you do not want, I suggest you let the question of what you want now linger for a moment longer than is comfortable. Your mind will likely answer first. We are, however, waiting for your soul to speak.

**Leo (July 22-Aug. 23):** June is often a brilliantly social month for you. The Gemini Sun opens up both you and your home. This year, though, you may be feeling particularly sentimental about your friends for some reason, and that emotion goes deeper than the topic of conversation or the usual current events. The beauty and the challenge of our human experience is its transience. It would perhaps be easier if we lived in a world that was not obsessed with progress and senseless change. You can, though, step out of that for a moment, and feel the natural progression of time, and the deepening of your contacts with the people you love the most.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22):** The direct quality of your human encounters is once again jumping to another level. For someone who has lived in a maze of ideas for so long, you're certainly taking an affinity to the bold and straightforward approach to communication, and to allowing that sharing to directly change your existence. No matter what may seem to be the setup, however, your creative fire is the center of the story of your life. This is centered in your heart, and also inside the four walls of your home. Maintain devotion to both, and any influence from the outside will arrive in its most positive and beneficial form.

**Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23):** In many respects, this is the month that you make a final reckoning on a crucial domestic matter. Everything may seem to be in flux at the moment, but that is basically what it's taking to get you to assess the situation from top to bottom; to size up the history carefully; and to establish your level of commitment to both yourself and a person who is important to you. Don't be too hard on either of you; this is a difficult test, but one of which you are fully capable. The more that comes up for question at once, the more grateful you can be you've really reached the crux point for which you have been waiting.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22):** A close partner seems to be pushing your

ambition higher, as if they are inspiring you to accomplish great things. I trust that while they do this, they are themselves working toward your goal, supporting you entirely, and providing a stable environment for you. I suggest you put all your faith in this arrangement working beautifully for them as well, even though you may not quite be able to see or understand why at this point. The scales of the universe are balanced — or at least those of your universe. And you are giving to the world a lot more than you may currently suspect.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22):** Solutions to a few very old problems are right within reach. They will most likely arise in a group context, where the people you share space with make some kind of a decision that they can call their own. Your role in the process will basically be to agree with what comes up. You may be asking, what if it's not the perfect solution? I can pretty much assure you that the more you stay back from the discussion, the more perfect the solution will be, even if it seems a little outrageous at first. In actual fact, human cooperation is always a bit weird.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20):** A dry roof and food to eat — for these things I suggest you be thankful. But we all know that is not enough. We want to share that roof and that food; we also want them offered to us. I suggest you take things patiently this month, one step at a time. Like many things, it's difficult to see at the beginning how the individual steps

in a process will lead you anywhere, much less lead you to the place you want to go. I cannot offer up anything by way of proof or even a compelling argument — just a little faith and a dash of trust.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19):** We don't often read descriptions of Aquarians having beautiful homes, or a tendency toward them. This has more to do with your utilitarian nature than your lack of homing instincts. Given half a chance, you would live in the most beautiful possible place, but fortunately you're adaptable. Under the influence of someone in your life right now, you're tending more toward your richest potential and less toward your adaptability. It's amazing what caring about someone can do; and what can happen when space is shared. Start with sharing your dreams.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** You may well ask how you're going to get any stability in your life, given all the flux you've been through the past couple of years. But sooner or later, everything in the universe reaches a state of equilibrium, your life included. To facilitate the process, you need to be in touch with your own needs, and you need to be an astute observer of the needs of others. At this point, both you and the people around you are gravitating toward honoring necessity, particularly on the emotional level. Humans are not always logical, but something odd is in the air.

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






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Island Epicure



Cool Meals  
for Hot Days

By Marj Watkins

Summer time and a disinclination to hover over a hot stove in a hot kitchen prompt me to remember a dish that requires little or no cooking, yet nourishes and refreshes the diner. Each fish taco made with flounder or sole yields 12.5 grams of protein. Made with scallops and real crab meat, each seafood taco contains 13.4 grams of protein. Neither kind is laden with calories. Flounder tacos have 149 calories each. Fake crabmeat tacos yield 152 calories each. If you need more, try adding deli potato salad and/or perhaps a dessert of ice cream, honey-drizzled sliced strawberries and a spritz of spray-on whipped cream.

Menu #1

Fish Tacos\*  
Deli Potato Salad  
Minted Applesauce\*  
Cookies

Menu #2

Ensalada de Escabeche  
Deli potato salad  
Fruit plate or Ice Cream with  
Strawberries

Fish Tacos — 2 to 3 servings

1/2 pound flounder or other  
boneless white fish  
Marinade:  
Juice of 1 lemon  
2 Tablespoons white balsamic  
vinegar or rice vinegar  
1/4 to 1/3 cup minced red onion  
1-1/2 teaspoons minced pickled  
jalapenos  
Salt to taste  
Soft tortillas  
Shredded lettuce, or baby  
arugala

Cut the fish in pieces about 1-  
inch x 1-1/2 inches. Briefly poach,  
just until opaque. Combine lemon  
juice, vinegar, onion, and jalapenos,  
plus a dash of salt. Drain fish and

gently mix with the marinade. Chill  
and let rest 3 to 4 hours. Scoop fish  
and vegetables out with a slotted  
spoon. Serve greens in one dish and  
ceviche in another, with a platter of  
Eggy Soft Tortillas (recipe below)

Ensalada de Escabèche — Latino  
Fish Salad — 4 to 6 servings

1 pound (6-ounce) can crab  
meat or  
1/2 pound surimi (fake crab)  
1/2 pound scallops  
1 cup lime or lemon juice, or  
some of  
each  
1 Tablespoon minced green  
chilies  
1/2 cup thinly sliced green  
onions,  
tops included  
1/2 cup peeled, seeded, chopped  
red  
ripe tomatoes  
1 teaspoon salt  
Dash cayenne  
Lettuce leaves or soft tortillas

Lightly poach scallops in a little  
water, just until opaque. Marinate  
in lemon or lime juice with chilies 3  
to 4 hours. Drain. Stir in onions,  
tomatoes, salt and cayenne. Serve on  
lettuce leaves. Roll up and eat out  
of hand.

Eggy Soft Tortillas — Makes 7  
(5 to 6-inch) tortillas

Allow 2 or 3 per serving  
2 eggs, beaten  
2 Tablespoons light olive or  
canola oil  
3/8 cup water  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 cups whole cornmeal  
Fork-beat oil, water, and salt.

Beat into eggs. Stir in cornmeal. Let  
batter rest 20 minutes or more. Add  
a few drops more water if batter is  
thicker than heavy cream.

Heat heavy skillet or griddle.  
Spoon two tablespoons of batter  
onto each heated surface. Tilt and  
tip to spread batter. Cook on  
medium heat until tops of tortillas  
change color change color. Flip.  
When done, the edges of the tortillas  
will turn upward. Slide onto a  
platter.

Minted Applesauce: Mix a 15.5  
ounce can of applesauce with a  
couple of drops each of green food  
coloring and peppermint extract.

Buenos appetitos!

☺☺☺



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Madame Toujours

Dear *Madame Toujours*,

I've got kind of an embarrassing  
social problem. The thing is, I've  
never been unusually popular with  
women. I've had a few  
relationships, but they didn't really  
go anywhere. Then about six  
months ago, I started noticing a lot  
of women hitting on me. I was  
getting lucky a lot more often than I  
ever had before, with a lot of great  
women. The problem was none of  
those women were interested in  
more than a few dates.

I mentioned this to a couple of  
my buddies and after they finished  
making a lot of jokes at my expense,  
my friend Al told me what was  
going on. He heard from a woman  
friend of his that a girl I dated for a  
while told all her friends that my  
penis was so enormous, she was  
afraid of it. Then all my friends made  
a lot more jokes at my expense, but  
nobody had anything helpful to say.

I feel very self-conscious now  
when I enter a room full of women.  
They all seem to be looking at me  
out of the corners of their eyes, and  
they're not making eye contact — if  
you get what I'm saying. I'm thirty-  
seven and I'd like to find some nice  
girl to settle down with, but all the  
girls I'm meeting lately are only  
interested in one thing and it isn't  
my great sense of humor.

Sincerely,  
Hung Up

*Cher M. Hung,*  
*Quelle Damage.* Naturally, you  
are feeling offended that *les femmes*  
are liking you for the enormous


bodily accouterments and not for  
the sparkling wit and the sensitive  
personality. What is being worse for  
the nice, sensitive fellow is that the  
women who are wishing to have the  
little affair with the penis, they are  
not being interested so much in the  
relationship with you.

The solution, it is to be  
convincing everybody that the story  
of the enormous manly regions, it is  
the vicious lie. For accomplishing  
this is simple: when you are  
speaking with the friends in public,  
frequently preface your remarks  
with the phrases such as, "Speaking  
as the fellow with the extremely  
small manly parts I can assure you  
that the situation in the Middle East  
is being very unstable." and "I think  
I can be speaking for all unusually  
poorly endowed men when I say  
that *Citizen Kane* was being directed  
by Orson Welles, not H.G. Wells."

Soon everybody will be  
suspecting that the story of the  
grossly oversized member was only  
the rumor, and the only women who  
are interested in dating with you will  
be the nice, sensible girls who are  
wishing to settle down and have the  
meaningful relationship.

*Bon Chance, M. Hung,* and  
perhaps now you will be the little  
bit more circumspect about who you  
are displaying to your manly parts  
in the future. The little bit of the  
modesty, it is going the long way,  
*non?*

☺☺☺



Loopy sez: Deadline for the  
next edition of *The Loop* is

**Friday, June 15**



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Positively Speaking

Taking it to Olympia

By Deborah H. Anderson

The purpose of this column is not to make social or political commentary on the Island. But I have devoted my life to the care and feeding and education of children. So...

I share with you my response to the actions of the school board.

For the life of me, I couldn't figure out why the board had slipped in that little detail about hiring a public relations and publicity person for fourteen thousand dollars a couple of weeks back. I didn't realize she was for the damage they were about to cause to the reputation of the district.

Just when Monte and Jennie and Charlie had done a pretty good job of building a sense of community into a district renowned for chewing superintendents up and spitting them out, there's a rear attack. Back to square one.

The demise began with the auction or rather the meeting to start it. There was one table filled in the Chautauqua lunchroom as I arrived. There was only room for those of the inner sanctum. The meeting began and the rest of us sat at adjacent tables. We were clearly outside the circle of trust!

"The first order of business is money", the new president announced. "Twenty-two thousand is not enough to run PTSA." I politely raised my hand and pointed out that as a past president both here and over town, we could not be a fundraising organization. The look I received was one of the most withering looks ever turned my way. I've rarely been silenced with a look. "I am in charge" it said. "You don't know what you are talking about," it said. "We will be about the business of raising money," it concluded.

My heart fell to the floor. I saw it coming. The woman didn't know children or education, she knew money. Just what our children didn't need. They were getting loaded at parties on the weekend, they had every toy known to mankind and were woefully caught in the middle of teachers who were stressed by lack of state funding. We needed to generate more community and support for our teachers and authenticity for our children. Those are things money can't buy. We had

PIE and we had the scholarship fund, I pointed out to them. Again, I was given the look. I called. The phone calls were not returned. I emailed. Same silence. I apologized for bringing up such rebellious statements. No response.

By golly, we were gonna raise money. Even though the charter and mission of PTSA is specifically that it is NOT to be a fundraising organization, by golly, ours was going to be.

Please understand, all of the special programs were already in place. Popcorn Friday, The Science Fair, Math Night, Reflections Art Competition, Teacher Appreciation, Pizza Night all had been initiated by those of us who had gone before.

And what was the end result of the auction? Noble Textbooks and goodies for underpaid teachers. EXCEPT state PTSA specifically does NOT want us to provide basic education.

Why? Because the poor districts East of the Mountains cannot have an auction that, with a wine list, makes \$120, 000. The only way we could stay in compliance is if we split the money with a poor district.

For years, PTSA has had as its top legislative issue the funding of Basic Education. Textbooks are basic education. Every time we fund basic education locally we allow the legislature to say, "See...they're doing it themselves."

EVERY CHILD ONE VOICE, not RICH KIDS ONE VOICE; POOR KIDS, DO THE BEST YOU CAN.

Within a year, the Reflections program was dropped so kids could mass-produce art objects for the auction. Other programs were waning and dreadfully in need of volunteers. When the new regime saw interest flagging, suddenly maybe the science fair was important.

The saddest thing was that these really nice well-meaning people were all being lead astray by this person who kept saying the top focus was raising money, and from what I could see, only because she didn't know how to focus on anything else.

It's grand that we can raise money at the drop of a hat. More if we serve wine, but that isn't best for all children in the state. The precedent the PTSA set is as egregious an offense as the cell phone usage.

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People who can't teach make money.

I really pray Mimi wins in this thing and God bless the district that gets her or the teachers that get taught by her at university. She brought us through mold and inept architecture and made teachers and parents feel good about what they were doing. The charges against her point to the ineptness of the board, not her. Skimmers don't submit a monthly paper trail. And can we not say, "Oh, election year, fishing expedition to look like a savior?" Yes, we could.

The first go round I felt helpless and hopeless and wanted to give up. All I heard was how proud they were they were making all this money and they sure weren't cookie bakers. I dropped off the board and dropped my membership. I guess it had to get bad enough.

I called state, dejected and despairing. When the first headlines came out, I told the woman about how out of control things had gotten over here. Her question to me was the obvious one. "Are you still a member?"

That's where we all start again. We were all bulldozed by the auction, which later ran over into the school board. The only answer to the carnage being wreaked by the current board is to become involved. Run for school board. Sign up to be legislative rep. Host an advocacy group in your home. It's time to get educators and child advocates on the school board.

And by the way, when someone is telling you how thankless a school board position is, don't believe them. It's full of prestige and power and glittery stuff. We can only call it thankless if school board members are required to live off a teacher's salary during their tenure or required to do an equal amount of pro bono work in their own fields.

Let's take back schools for education, high standards of achieving (i.e. kids who drink at parties get bounced immediately from co-curricular activities) take it back for the teachers who are there for the love of education and ALL Children.

And the auction money...well...I see scholarships for the two kids who have most raised their GPA in high school. I see enrichment camps and fully funded tutoring programs. I see parent education events, and Reflections with two hundred kids submitting their individual work and a commitment to splitting all earnings with the poorest district in the state.

ooooo

Farmer's Market

Open Every

Saturday Uptown

By Joanne Jewell

It's all happening at the market in the Village Green, **10-2 this Saturday**, and every Saturday this summer.

Island produce will be available in the Market this month, including lots of salad greens, snap peas and braising greens. Also available are plant starts including basil, broccoli, eggplant, and cucumbers. Richard O'Dell at Fieldstone Flowers and Trees has beautiful trees and Judd Creek Nursery has trees and native perennials. Hazel Thies brings culinary herbs ready to plant in the garden and be harvested all summer long.

Sea Breeze Farm will have fresh pork for the first time this season. Sea Breeze and Vashon Winery were both featured in last weekend's *Seattle Times* in an article on Vashon Island wineries. Pick up some wine to accompany that pork roast!

Vegetarians and omnivores alike will enjoy the lunch specialties offered by Paul Motoyoshi at Sol Source. Island crafters will be selling handmade soap, cutting boards, reconditioned kitchen knives, jewelry, cards, and clothing.

Guest musicians on **Saturday, June 9**, are Lila O'Brian (viola, violin) and Emerson Shedenhelm (violin). Guest musicians on **Saturday, June 16** will be Just Fiddlin' Around.



The very talented, mystical, and existential band “Club Drift” celebrate “Californication” with many of the fortunate Islanders who attended Best of Open Mike at the High School on May 23rd. The band is made up of Dom Wolczko, James Riley, Shiam Kenyon, Greg Pendergast/ Thomas Waterbury.

**Sport Shorts:**

Congrats to all the VHS Spring Sports teams and some of the following very venomous individuals:

**Baseball:** Winning their first playoff game in years. Bravo!

**Baseball Award Winners:** League MVP: Justin Calhoun.

**All League Members:** Max Bean, Eric Anderson, Calhoun, and Honourable Mention: Tom Schumacher.

And the team won the **League Sportsmanship Award!**

**Soccer:** Reaching the state quarterfinals! Uhuh!

**Lacrosse:** Another great season!

**Tracksters:** State placers: Alana Robinson 5th; Katlin Twietmeyer 7th; Kate Straube 4th.

**Tennis:** Ben Shelton 5th at State. Soccer All-League Members: Shane Davis, Cooper Crosby, Matt Beydebiere, Chris Caccapaglia, Jason Corrales-Diaz.

Here’s some more poetry for ya’.  
Think Jabberwocky; think Lewis Carroll;  
think Jay-Z, you know.

Bump the Base  
Cat  
Tilly tat  
Wat hat mat  
Fat track nick nack  
Woah Woah Woah  
Naked mole rat?  
Chew chew chew  
Your food



Area woman eats a large burger with a small bun. **LARGE BURGER, small bun!**

**Avoid West Nile Virus**

**Protect yourself from mosquitoes** by eliminating their breeding habitat: small amounts of standing water commonly found around houses in buckets, wheelbarrows, clogged drains and discarded tires. **Dead birds:** The public is requested to report dead birds to Public Health so that the location of dead birds can be recorded. A small number will be

Hoowoop doobop  
Doobop slop  
Slish swash  
Mosh mosh mosh  
Your face  
Chicka chicka chicka chicka  
Keep the pace  
Booka booka booka booka  
Bump the base  
— by Masta’ Quang Patrick



The famous rural yodler, Kenneth Knoodler Martinovich, wanders out of the woods to celebrate Germany’s 3rd place World Cup finish. “I won’t stop celebrating till June 30th, at the earliest,” Knoodler muttered while scarfing on a large portion of wienerschnitzel.

tested for West Nile. A spike in bird deaths may indicate the areas of the county where the virus is most active. Call (206) 205-4394 to report a dead bird or report online at [www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile/deadbird.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile/deadbird.htm) Learn more by calling the West Nile Virus hotline at (206) 205-3883 or visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile>



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Stacy Dayton, fitness instructor (center), with Carolina Henley, Ardith Fleener, Nina Murano and Jo Scholz moving to the music at the SC’s annual luncheon recently. Photo by Harry Reinert

**Senior Fitness Program Starts**

No more falls, better balance, a stronger mind, a stronger heart and a stronger body motivate students in the Senior Center’s Enhanced Fitness program — with a new series starting **Monday, June 11** at Ober Park, meeting Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for an hour workout at 7:45 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. The fee is \$34 for Senior Center members, \$42 for nonmembers and free to Group Health HMO members with Medicare Parts A and B. Register at the Senior Center. The instructor is Stacy Dayton, a fitness instructor at the YMCA.

## Vashon Island’s K2/Bill Burby Fun Run – Fun for the Whole Family

Gear up, get ready, GO!

Sign up now for the 27th Annual K2/Bill Burby Fun Run to be held on Saturday July 14, 2007, in conjunction with Strawberry Festival. Look for the red registration forms at many Island businesses or sign up on-line at [www.signmeupsports.com](http://www.signmeupsports.com). You are offered a choice of a 10K run, 5K run or 5K walk. The 5k and 10k race courses start and finish north of town near the YMCA. Both courses are certified and sanctioned. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on the course.

K2 is the primary sponsor of the race again, and will award a pair of skis or snowboard to the male and female winners of the 5K run and 10K run. More skis or snowboards will be awarded to race participants by random drawing. Divisional winners in the 10K and 5K runs will

receive medals (1st through 3rd) and ribbons (4th through 6th). No awards will be given for the walk. Electronic results will be provided by Budu Timing. Proceeds of the race benefit the VHS sports programs as well as the Vashon Community Scholarship Program.

You can save \$10 if you pre-register. On-line registration ([www.signmeupsports.com](http://www.signmeupsports.com)) must be completed by 6 p.m. on July 12. You may drop off the registration forms up until 4:30 p.m. July 12 at the Beachcomber or mail by July 7, 2007. The 10K race will begin promptly at 9 a.m., followed by the 5K race and walk. For additional information, e-mail [burby10k5k@aol.com](mailto:burby10k5k@aol.com) or visit the website at [hometown.aol.com/burby10k5k](http://hometown.aol.com/burby10k5k).

**Summer Irish Ceili Dance at the Grange Hall**

“Summertime and the dancing is easy” at the community Irish Ceili dance at the Grange Hall on **Saturday, June 23!** The dance will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and will feature live music by Vashon Irish dance band The Gold Ring. Sam Keator is coming up from Portland to teach and call all the dances. Sam is the two-time president of the All-Ireland Cultural Society, the beloved instructor of hundreds of Irish dancers, a frequent visitor to Ireland with his Irish wife, and a renowned dancer on the West Coast céilí scene. He teaches weekly drop-in classes in the Portland area.

The suggested donation for the dance is \$8 (\$6 for students and seniors). The Grange Hall is located in the north-end ferry dock parking lot. 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). This dance is hosted by the Vashon Celtic Dance Society and made possible in part through the support of the Vashon Park District. For more information about the Vashon Celtic Dance Society, or to volunteer, call Shannon Seath Meyer at (206) 774-4047 or Lori Lowrance at (206) 369-9234.



# Lopy Laffs

The worlds easiest test...or is it?

1. How long did the hundred year war last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From what animal do we get catgut?
4. In what month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hair brush made from?
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What color is a Purple Finch?
9. Where are Chinese Gooseberries from?
10. How long did the Thirty Years War last?

Answers:

1. 116 years, from 1337 to 1453.
2. Ecuador.
3. From sheep and horses.
4. November. The Russian calendar was 13 days behind ours.
5. Squirrel fur.
6. The Latin name was Insularia Canaria - Island of the Dogs.
7. Albert. In 1936 he respected the wish of Queen Victoria that no future king should ever be called Albert.
8. Distinctively crimson
9. New Zealand
10. 30 years of course. 1618 to 1648.

## One! Liners!

Be nice to me—I'm out of Valium.  
Ask me about my vow of silence.  
Aural sex gives me an earie feeling.  
Age is a high price to pay for maturity.  
Being evil means never having to say you're sorry.  
Anger makes the mouth work faster than the mind.  
Do-it-yourselfers follow the path of least assistance.  
When your dreams turn to dust, it's time to vacuum.  
Barnum was wrong...it's more like every 15 seconds.

A woman was complaining to the neighbor that her husband always came home late, no matter what she said. "Do what I did," said the neighbor, "Once my husband came home at three o'clock in the morning, I whispered, 'Is that you, Jim ?' That cured him." "Cured him!" asked the woman, "But how?" The neighbor said, "His name is Bill."

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. — Will Rogers

**Cowboy Wisdom**  
When you plan on givin' someone a piece of your mind, make sure you can get by on what's left.

The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good, spit it out.

If the front of your car says DODGE, do you really need a horn?

Absence diminishes small loves and increases great ones, as the wind blows out the candle and blows up the bonfire.

Dear God: Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. — Joyce

When glass breaks, the cracks move at speeds of up to 3,000 miles per hour.

No one wants advice—only corroboration. — John Steinbeck

Habit is habit and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs one step at a time. — Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good spouse, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. – Socrates



## OFFSHORE



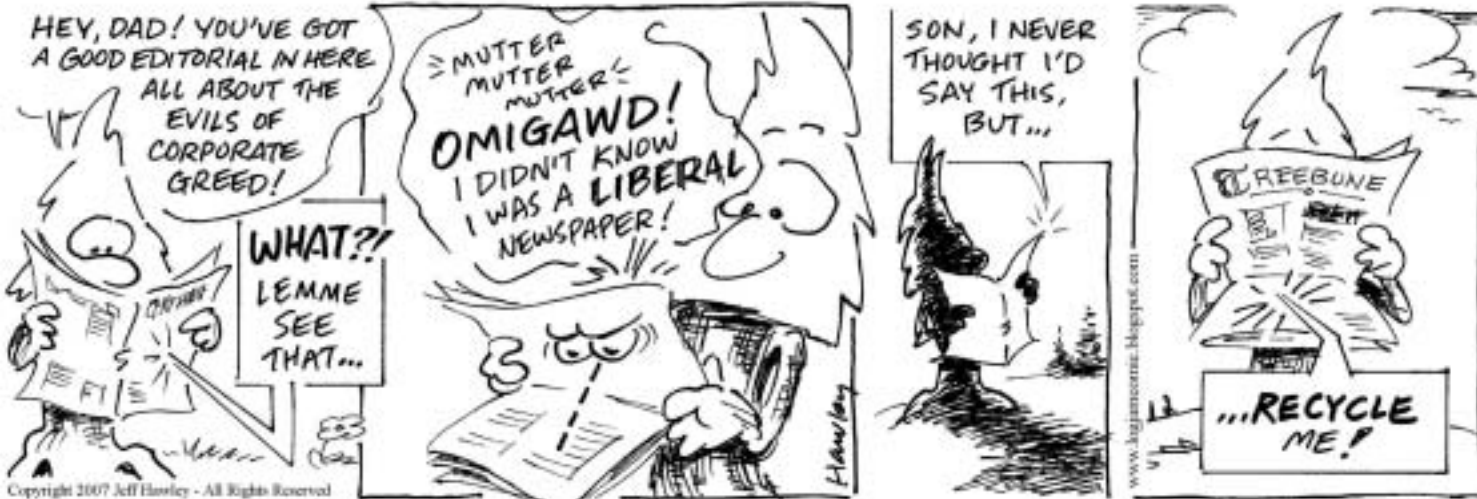
Solution to puzzle on page 7

VIPS MEANWHILE - THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PARADE IS STEPPING OFF...  
...AND EVERYONE LOVES THE BAGPIPERS !! EXCEPT...

YOU GUESSED IT... THE MAURY ISLAND SPACE ALIENS.



## LOGJAM



More VIPS at: <http://vashonislandpeoples.blogspot.com/>



# Loop Arts



Mimi Fox will perform at the Blue Heron, Saturday, June 16, 8 pm. Courtesy photo

## Guitarist Mimi Fox Swings

By Janice Randall

If you listen to KPLU, you’ve heard jazz guitarist extraordinaire Mimi Fox. Hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area, Fox has blazed a trail of success and respect through the wide world of jazz. Her Northwest tour will include one night only, Saturday, June 16, 8 pm, at Blue Heron Art Center. She will be accompanied by stellar Seattle bass player, Clipper Anderson. Tickets are \$14 VAA members, seniors, student and \$16 general admission, available now at Heron’s Nest and Blue Heron; call to reserve 463.5131.

“A superb talent...Dazzling facility on acoustic and electric guitar which she applies with gorgeous sensitivity,” said the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

And according to *JazzTimes Magazine*, “Fox distinguishes herself as a remarkably accomplished straight-ahead player with flawless time, pristine execution, serious chops, a keen ear for chordal voicings and reharmonizations, as well as possessing an inner urge to burn.”

Enamored with jazz guitar since she heard John Coltrane during her early teens, Fox has been recording since 1981 and may be heard on more than 20 albums. She released her highly acclaimed double CD, *Perpetually Hip*, in 2006, and also recorded on an NPR Jazz Christmas CD with Marian McPartland. She has composed original scores for film, television, radio and dance and worked with the Sonoma Orchestra. In addition, Fox has published two guitar books, *Jazz Anatomy* and *Guitar Arpeggio Studies on Jazz Standards*.

She has performed with the likes of Charlie Byrd, Stanley Jordan and Grammy award winning saxophonists Branford Marsalis and David Sanchez among others and shared stages with artists Diana Krall and Stevie Wonder. Fox plays major international venues and festivals from New York to Tokyo, including tours of the Caribbean, Japan, Thailand and Australia.

She is Chair of the Guitar Department at the Berkeley Jazz School, adjunct professor at New York University and Mimi is a guest clinician at numerous universities and college music departments.

## Great Rain Returns to Café Luna

On **Friday, June 15**, at 7:30 p.m., Great Rain plays a return engagement at Café Luna. Great Rain, also know as “The Original Folk Rock Insurgents”, is Greg Parrott and Frank Hein. They are essentially an acoustic duo with a sonic architecture that at times reaches escape velocity. Their unique style of folk rock has been built on the edge elements of rock, including a touch of rebellion and exuberance. They write with a dedication and conviction that comes through in their live shows. Their passion and sense of purpose penetrates the boundaries of most “acoustic” acts, but still maintains the warm, eloquent spirit of folk rock traditions.

So come and hear ‘em, for goodness’ sake.



Sammy Barrett. Courtesy photo

## Sammy Barrett Sings Her Songs at Café Luna

Sammy Barrett will be appearing at Café Luna on **Saturday, June 16**, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Sammy Barrett is a Seattle native, born and raised in the Queen Anne neighborhood. Her family has always supported her career; in fact, her mother was a singer/songwriter herself.

Barrett loves the city and draws a lot of inspiration from it and from her personal experience, but mostly she is an acute observer of her surroundings and a gifted storyteller. When she left school to find true inspiration, she started writing and singing. “Everybody has something they are naturally drawn to and enjoy,” she says. “For me it’s not math, or science, or law, but music.”

Barrett launched her performing career in the Seattle music scene this year and is excited to be performing and watching her songs come to life. She recorded her full-length album *On the Corner* before ever playing to a live audience, and is excited to play for others. She feels it offers a new kind of excitement and meaning to her songs. Sammy still loves the comfort of Seattle but enjoys traveling, and as she says, “As long as I have a guitar I’m fine wherever I am.”

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**5:01**  
**Country Rock at its Finest!**

**Saturday, June 9th 7:30 -9:30**  
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## The Always Entertaining Poetry Open Mic

By Devon Atkins

It was in late April when I approached Natalie Sheard, the new owner of Café Luna, and asked if I could impose on her hospitality. After all, I didn’t know her, and I was asking her to host a poetry open mic in just a little more than a week. Much to my surprise, she agreed, and enthusiastically. I submitted articles to the *Beachcomber* and *Loop*, papered the town, and hounded the English teachers at VHS, McMurray, and Chautauqua to support my effort. I thought a gimmick might work to draw a few participants, so I called the event, The 8-Word, 8-Day Poetry Open Mic, and challenged Islanders to write a poem using some of my words and some of their own, and challenged them further to bring their poems to Luna and read them aloud. People are busy and teachers are busier. My words were a little odd, and maybe people wouldn’t take to my challenge. But, they did. They brought so many poems to Café Luna, that Natalie devoted a whole wall to them.

On the night of the event, I borrowed a sound system and Daniel Belfrage, a willing 8th grader, and arrived at Luna a half hour before show time. There were no early arrivals; and there was no line-up of poets, waiting to sign up to read their poems. At 6:50 p.m., I turned to Natalie and said, apologetically, “Geez, Natalie, we might have like five people show up tonight.” Natalie didn’t seem discouraged. For me, the place seemed to get bigger and emptier with every minute. Minutes later, I looked up to find all the tables filled, a line at the counter, and a nearly full sign-up sheet. I was amazed. I had organized open mics before, but never like this. The variety of poets and poems made the evening interesting, the level of passion and humor made it irresistible. Nearly 30 poets read their stuff; many of them using the eight words I offered; many read poems that had been created long before that week. By the end of the evening, it was clear that we all wanted more. So, I came up with a new writing challenge that gave poets eight days to use three simple phrases in an

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## Knocked Up

6/15 – 6/21

## Disturbia

6/15 – 6/18

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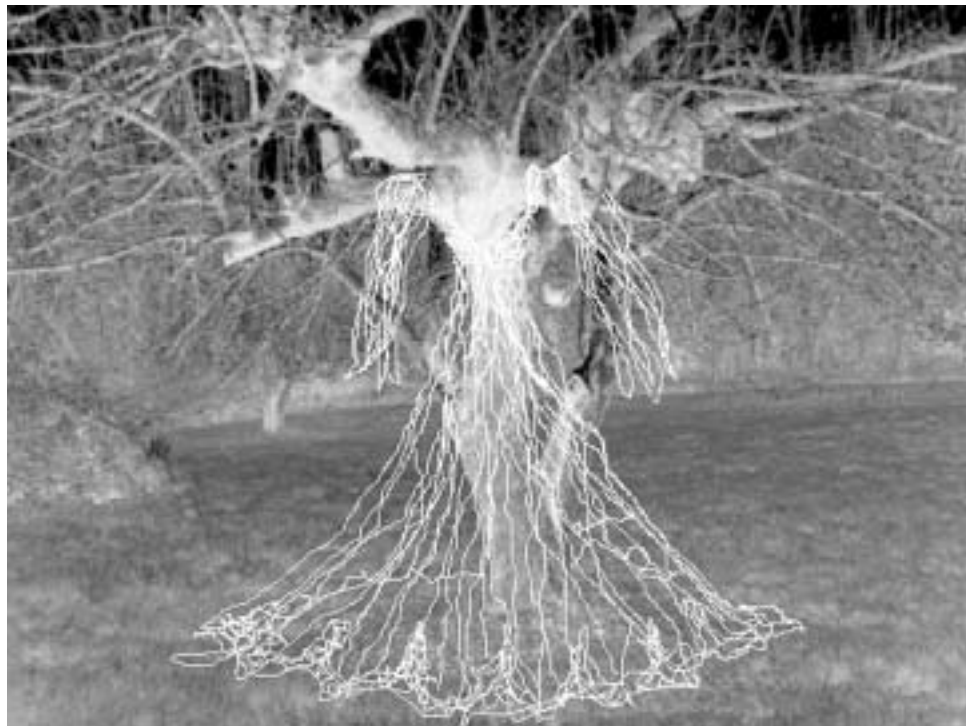
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original poem. With “the one-armed man,” a ferris wheel,” and “stealing cannolis” as the prompt, the poems were even more compelling, the sign-ups easily topped thirty, and once again the place was packed, energy was high, and the crowd was happy.

So, where do we go from here? Well, it’s eight days until June 13th, when we will have our next 8-Word, 8-Day Poetry Open Mic at Café Luna. How could we resist?! This time, the theme is onomatopoeic! That’s right, during the next week, you must create a poem using as many of your own words, plus the following eight onomatopoeias : cringe, topple, puff, scratch, drop, bulbous, wavy, mist with no variations in tense or spelling. Write your poem and drop it off at the Café. Natalie will post it on the Poetry Wall. Then, on **Wednesday, June 13** at 7 p.m., come to the Poetry Open Mic at Café Luna and share your poem with a laid-back, fun-loving crowd of Islanders of all ages. Don’t want to write an 8-Word, 8-Day poem? Okay, be that way. You can always read another poem, written by you or someone else; or, just sit back and watch! You can sign up as early as Monday, and if you have questions, you can give me a call: (206) 353-9227. You’re not going to want to miss this; after all, it’s probably going to be the last one...unless it’s really good like the last two! Be there, or be square.

June @ Café Luna	
Fri. 6/8 7:30 — 5:01 Country Rock at its Finest!	
Sat. 6/9 7:30 — Les Barker Hilarious, Irreverent English Folk Poetry	
Thurs. 6/14 6:30 — Progressive/Green Party Film & Discussion Series <i>Sound and Fury</i>	
Fri. 6/15 7:30 — Great Rain The Original Folk Rock Insurgents	
Sat. 6/16 7:30 — Sammy Barrett Young singer songwriter from Seattle.	
Fri. 6/22 7:30 — Songwriters Showcase! Featuring Mark Wells	
Sat. 6/23 7:00 — Musicians Showcase featuring Vashon's own Sarah Christine	
Sun. 6/24 6:00 — Vashon Celtic Players	
Thurs. 6/28 7:00 — Open Mic Poetry Night #3	
Fri. 6/29 7:30 — Brent Magstadt Acoustic-Electric Power Trio	
Sat. 6/30 7:30 — Jesse Meade w/ Girin Guha.Blues, Rhythm & Blues, Soul, and Country, both originals and covers.	



Preparatory sketch for The Eve Project, by Elizabeth Klob

## The Eve Project: 12 dresses, 12 trees, 12 months

The first installation of The Eve Project will take place on **Friday, June 22**, beginning at 7 p.m., at Pt. Robinson park.

The Eve Project, sponsored by Cicada Bridal, Vashon Park District and The UMO Ensemble, will feature Elizabeth Klob of Vashon, sculpting wedding dresses onto the trunks of apple trees at the Point Robinson Park on Vashon. The project will weave a unique junction between art, performance, community and environment. The dresses will be installed in three stages, leaving them to progress and decay in the environment for one year. Within that time, various community celebrations will take place in the midst of the orchard, including the opening event on the evening of June 22 beginning at 7

**First Installation Opening:**  
**Friday, June 22 at 7 p.m.**  
**Children's event:**  
**Saturday, June 23, 12 noon**  
**Point Robinson Park**  
**Who: Elizabeth Klob, project creator**  
**Sponsored by, Cicada Bridal, Vashon Park District and the UMO Ensemble**

p.m. Saturday, June 23rd, an apple juice party for Island children will include craft tables for them to create their own contributions to the trees.

Island photographer Mary McAleer will be photographing the process and working with Elizabeth to create a photo display for a future showing on the Island.

Comments about the project can be directed to [Elizabeth@umo.org](mailto:Elizabeth@umo.org).



"Tulips" by Glen Earl Alps

## Glen Alps Featured Artist at Fine Arts Gallery

Glen Alps was born in Loveland, Colorado on June 20, 1914. He was responsible for creating and developing the collagraph printing process and is considered a pioneer American print maker. In a collagraph, a thin metal or cardboard plate is built-up and manipulated by the artist using a collage-like process combining various materials such as fabric, string, gesso, glue, sand and found objects. Collagraph prints are then

usually pulled on a press and result with both intaglio (incised) and relief characteristics.

Alps exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Smithsonian Institution. He taught and served as Head of the Printmaking Department at the University of Washington from 1949 to 1978. The exhibition tag found on the back of this work indicates that it was included in the Northwest Printmakers 18th International held March 6-April 7, 1946, at the Seattle Art Museum. Alps passed away on November 3, 1996.

## Margaret Varra Returns to Vashon as Mugoux

By Juli Goetz Morser

Ten years ago, Margaret Varra left her Island home in search of fresh adventure in the larger world. This week, Varra returns as her latest incarnation, Mugoux, to read and sign the book about her escapades, *Travels with William*, at Books by the Way on **Friday, June 8**, at 7:30 pm.

Over the years, when Margaret Varra changed her profession, she didn't just change her title or email address, she changed her life, and consequently, she has had many marvelous incarnations.

Varra first arrived on Vashon in 1985 to housesit for an artist friend, and work for Hospice. Before long, Margaret Varra morphed into Madame Varra, Tarot reader and intuitive healer, often seen reading cards in the foyer of Dog Day Café. Madame V, ever seeking a deeper understanding of this business called Life, transformed yet again, emerging as Marvee, an executive producer and writer for a Seattle film company before eventually setting off to live in Greece, Prague and for the last year Argentina, as writer and author Mugoux, a name created by her artist husband William Hewson.

If Varra's life of many characters was understood as a play, then the through-line of her drama would be Varra as writer and spiritual seeker; and *Travels with William* would, as it does, reveal in humorous and poignant detail the lessons and insights she's learned along the way. And Hewson's images from his



Mykonos. Drawing by William Hewson

travel sketchbook add a wonderful visual dimension.

Mugoux calls *Travels with William* autobiographical fiction as the events in the story are real, but have been embellished. It is a story about two artists, Mugoux and Hewson, learning to live in relationship with each other and their art while exploring the globe. "It's about the spiritual aspects of marriage and traveling,"

says Mugoux, "and it is the first in a series about two ordinary bumbler traveling the world seeking enlightenment. I've listed the books as Travel Literature because each takes place in a different country, *Travels with William* – Vashon and Greece, *The Origin of Sighs* (out in 2008) in Europe and the U.S., *501 Spanish Blurbs* in Mexico, *Gauchos Galore* in Argentina.

Varra's goal for this series is quite simply transformation. "I'm hoping to appeal to other bumlbers who also want transformation," laughs Mugoux, "those who choose/long for/pursue enlightenment. There are hundreds of How-To books, but what does it actually look like to pursue the path and achieve it? Hopefully by the last book, (perhaps *Death takes a Holiday?*) we'll know."

Even if that elusive Enlightenment slips by, there is no doubt that readers of *Travels with William* will savor what one critic calls "a feast of a book...with vivid descriptions, crazy characters...dynamic relationship, and real discourses on contemporary issues."

Varra admits she is looking forward to her return to the Island as it holds a special place in her heart. "No matter where I have lived in the US or in the world, Vashon is always what I think of as home."

For more information, please call Books by the Way at 463-2696.



Delos, by William Hewson

**Excerpt from Chapter 3, *Travels with William*:**

Our first outing was to a blustery beach where the faded remains of summer were littered like shrapnel; emptied plastic pockets of antihistamine, razors, film containers, and multi colored shards of glass...

None of this fit with the romantic ideas I'd been clutching for months while we slogged though disentangling ourselves from the mechanism that is the U.S. of A. I'd imagined finding some kind of marvelous tribe that rushed to me with open arms as I alighted from the boat because I was – well — me: sophisticated yet funky, intellectual, intriguing, unusual, mesmerizing. They, my tribe, had been waiting for me all these long years, like the return of Odysseus, and would of course see and know me instantly...as I lay in my little pillow nest I sizzled with erronia.





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