



VASHON

THE LOOP

Vol. 7, #24

TO INFORM AND AMUSE -- TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

November 24, 2010

Studio Tour Artist Highlites



"Full Circles" by Valerie Willson, studio #18

Vashon Island is known for the vision and skill of its artists. The artists on the December Studio Tour live up to our expectations! I had the privilege of interviewing a few of them, and would like to share some of that experience with you here.

Valerie Wilson is known for her vibrant oil paintings. She has developed an extensive library of intricate block prints, which have become the distinctive imagery components in her monoprints and oil paintings. Valerie is clearing out her studio to make room for her new venture into encaustic (wax) painting, and will be offering oil paintings and prints at greatly reduced prices. She may even have some of her new work to show!

Brian Fisher's monoprints and paintings draw their imagery from Greek mythology. His background in architectural drawing gives his work a

clean, hard-edged look, which belies his organic way of working. Brian begins with shapes and colors; gradually as he works, the theme emerges from his subconscious, which has been fed by extensive reading. For Tour, Brian will also be hosting Laughing Magpie's fused glass and dyed fabric, and Tiffany Huslings artful pet toys.

Terri Fletcher uses a Shibori (Japanese silk dyeing method) technique called Itajima to produce rhythmic repetitions of shapes on silk, cotton, and even paper. A purple velvet silk scarf shimmered on the work bench as Terri explained her process. She uses Plexiglas circles and squares clamped tightly to the folded cloth to block in those shapes. She then adds buttons, type, sewing, or even encaustic (wax) to give each piece more dimension. Terri's work has been included in two books: Memory on Cloth, by Yoshiko Wada, and Shibori:

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Wind Knocks Out Power to Vashon



Intersection of Vashon highway and Cove road is partially blocked by downed power lines and a tree. You can see the broken power pole on the left of photo.

The Emergency Operations Center at the fire station was up and operating Tuesday keeping islander informed on the power situation.

All of Vashon Island lost power early Tuesday morning as a strong winter storm blew through the Puget Sound.

According to Puget Sound Energy, power is out to the entire island. Both feeder lines that provide primary power to the island went down Tuesday night and poles will have to be replaced in order for power to be restored. Potelco crews arrived on the Vashon Tuesday afternoon. As of Tuesday evening there were still no estimates for restoration of power.

All main roads were open Tuesday. Main arterials were clear. Side roads have compact ice. There are several local road closures due to icy slopes, downed trees, and downed power lines. Islanders have been advised to avoid all unnecessary travel.

King County Water Taxi service was suspended Monday and Tuesday.

No gas stations on Vashon were pumping gas Tuesday, but from 1 to 4 pm Tuesday and all day Wednesday, Williams Heating at 19410 Vashon Highway will be filling gas cans if you leave them with your name on them on a cash or credit card basis.

The Vashon Health Center was open on generator power and they'll be open Wednesday as well.

Vashon Pharmacy was open for prescriptions only.

Vashon Disposal reports that most or all residential garbage and recycling pickup scheduled for Tuesday has been cancelled. No yard waste pickup either. You can put out your garbage and recycling on the next scheduled pickup day at no charge.

Both supermarkets were open Tuesday. There is no power at Vashon Market and limited generator power at Thriftway. The coffee line at Thriftway was just about out the door, but they're up and running and very popular.

Both hardware stores were open under generator power on a cash basis.

The Vashon Loop was operating with a generator to finish this issue. Editor of the Loop and operator of www.vashonnews.com, Steven Allen was able to update websites with current information for those with computers. Jeff Hoyt with the Voice of Vashon forwarded information that was being broadcast on Voice of Vsahon standing by at 1650 on your am dial. Many Islanders tuned into the radio service for information on the power outage.

An overnight warming station for residents was set up at the Penny Farcy Training Center across the street from the main fire station.



Williams Heating opened up to fill gas cans Tuesday afternoon. With no power on Vashon Island this was the only place you could fill up on Gas and Diesel. Most in line were stocking up on fuel for generators.

Only On Vashon

Nineteenth in a series

Life Preserver

By Peter Bond



Zany's a seven-year-old white lab who's lived on Vashon his entire life. Technically his name is Zane but everybody calls him Zany. The name fits him well, as it might many labs. Bouncy, full of life and love, every moment something new to explore and savor, that's the breed norm.



His owners were having a very bad year, and by autumn things were spiraling downward past unemployment (after 25 years at the same job, Dad was laid off) into marital separation and moving off island. Robin, the fourteen year old daughter, and Zany, her inseparable pal, were hanging in there like a couple of shipwreck victims clinging to a single preserver. But it was a precarious hold. And it finally slipped away.

Zany needed to find a new home.

This was not a casual decision by any stretch. Indeed, it came well after the resolutions to move and break up the marriage. It was probably the hardest decision of them all. But with looming financial disaster and a new rental in the city that simply wouldn't allow dogs (Robin was moving with her Dad into Seattle while Mom took a job in San Jose), the family tried to focus on what was best for Zany. And Zany had always lived on island, with space to run, water to swim in, and trees to pee on.

The initial attempt at homefinding proved disastrous too. Thinking they were doing the right thing by not burdening friends, the family placed an ad on craigslist. In typical good intentioned-but-naïve Vashon fashion the ad read "Free Lab to good home."

The rats came scurrying out of the walls.

The poor folks were inundated with overly casual and downright dubious inquiries from places like Nigeria. Even relatively local responses from, say, Whidbey Island, were often from inebriated and/or drugged Internet trollers. More often than not an email query would consist of less-than-one-line blurbs such as:

"Still got the dog?"

"Does it like cats?"

"He a chewer?"

I'm being generous here with the spelling too.

Needless to say none of these meth labs got hold of poor Zany. The family pulled the ad after a few tearfully frustrating days. Following that, a friend who'd been watching the events unfold found a wonderful family in Gig Harbor that was very interested. They came over for a daylong visit one afternoon and, upon leaving, all parties decided Zany had his new home!

Except during all the commotion nobody asked Zany his opinion. Yes, he seemed

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Get in The Loop

Submissions to the Loop

Do you have an event or Public Service Announcement? Email questions or submissions to Steven Allen, editor of the *Loop*, at editor@vashonloop.com. Photos are welcome as jpeg or pdf attachments.

Break Time for Social Workers

Vashon Community Care Center hosts a monthly Caregivers Support Group meeting. The group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7pm. This group is geared toward family or friend caregivers, rather than paid caregivers. This month, we are again experimenting with offering care for those who need it during the meeting. If interested, please make a reservation by calling Julea at 567-6142

Night Time Beach Exploration With the Vashon Beach Naturalists

Saturday, December 4 – Tramp Harbor Beach – 8-10pm
Night Time Beach Exploration
With the Vashon Beach Naturalists
Dress warmly in boots, jacket, and cap and bring a flashlight with an extra battery to view the beach at a night time low tide. The critters will be more comfortable in the dark! Vashon Beach Naturalists will point out marine animals who live on the upper beach, those who like the middle zone, and those who prefer the lower beach where they are usually under water. Park along the north (Ellisport) end of Tramp Harbor where the should is wide.
Low Tide -2.7 at 9:44pm
Co-sponsored by Vashon Park District, Vashon-Maury Island Audubon, Vashon College, and Vashon Beach Naturalists

Make a date with Vashon!
www.VashonCalendar.org
Vashon Library Events
Art & Music Events
Submit your Event on line at www.vashoncalendar.org

The Vashon Loop

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PO Box 253, Vashon, WA 98070
Paid advertisements in The Vashon Loop in no way express the opinions of the publisher, editor, or staff. We reserve the right to edit or not even print stuff.
Published every two weeks or so by Paradise Valley Press
© November 24, 2010- Vol. VII, #24

Santa's Cottage Hours

Here is the schedule for Santa's Photos with Sage Photography at Santa's Cottage:
Saturday 12/4 10 am to 4 pm
Friday 12/10 5 pm to 7:30 pm
Saturday 12/11 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Parents please note, you will be waiting outside for your special time with Santa. Dress weather appropriate.

Vashon Island Chorale Concerts

The Vashon Island Chorale, under the artistic direction of Gary D. Cannon, presents Noël: A French Christmas featuring the Oratorio de Noël by Camille Saint-Saëns with five solists: Marita Ericksen, Emily Belshaw, Susan Valenti, Joe Farmer and Gary Koch. Other works on the program include pieces by Benjamin Britten, Anton Bruckner, and Hector Berlioz. Soprano Jennifer Krikawa is featured for the song "O Holy Night". The two concerts take place on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 7:30pm and Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3pm at the Bethel Church. The cast from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (Vashon Youth Chorus) which can be seen at the Blue Heron Dec. 9-12 also joins the chorale for the concert finale. Tickets (\$12.50 or \$10/seniors & students) are for sale at the book stores and the Blue Heron.

The Sound of Music comes to Vashon

After you have enjoyed your Thanksgiving meal, please consider attending our upcoming fundraiser~ The Sound of Music Sing Along.
VYFS will be hosting an all ages Sound of Music sing along, Sunday November 28th, 12:00pm at the Vashon Theater. Dust off your lederhosen and polish your singing chops. There will be prizes for best costume and plenty of entertainment for the whole family. This is a fundraiser for vashon Youth and Family Services, and the cost for adult tickets is \$10/person. Tickets for children 4-10yrs. old are \$5 and kids 3 and under are free!
This will be an amazingly fun event, so please dress up as your favorite character and join us at the theater. You don't have to sing well, just loud.
We truly hope you can join us for this unique and entertaining event.
Please call 463-5511 if you have any questions or visit our website: www.vyfs.org
From all of us, to all of you, we wish you a happy and safe

Green Power Challenge ends December 31

Only 37 Sign-Ups To Go!
Join us and be part of the final push to get an additional \$5000 – for a grand total of \$15,000 – from PSE towards a Vashon community solar project.
Sign up for GREEN POWER, for as little as \$4.00/mo., for home and/or business!
Do it NOW! <http://www.pse.com/greenpower> or 1-800-562-1482,
Or in person at the PSE booth, December 11, Farmers' Holiday Market, VHS Commons, 10 AM - 3 PM.
For more information: www.sustainablevashon.org

VIPP's 2011 Calendar

Vashon Island Pet Protectors new 2011 calendar is now available at these locations: Pandora's Box, Vashon Bookshop, Books By the Way, and Fair Isle Animal Clinic. They are \$20 each. Many thanks to the generous donations from our sponsors for this year's calendar: Rob and Mitzi Galus, Dee Weedin, Catherine Wilcox, Jean Emmons, Carole Elder, Joanna Gardiner and the Vashon Bookshop. And a big thank you to calendar cover winning bidders, Shawna Morrell and Melissa Bohm.

Nicky Falkenhayn Jewelry Show

Dova Silks, a silk clothing design studio participating in the Vashon Holiday Arts Tour, is hosting a trunk show featuring jewelry designer Nicky Falkenhayn Dec 4th and 5th, 10am to 4 pm. Nicky knits and crochets silver and gold wire incorporating semiprecious stones into beautifully intricate lightweight neckpieces, earrings, chokers and bracelets. Dova Silks is located in the Blooms Building, 17600 Vashon HWY SW.

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Harry Potter Through December 2

Secretariat December 3-9

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2010- Seattle Weekly

For show times and info check www.vashontheater.com

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Find it on www.VashonPages.com
Kronos, Polouse Winery, Pandora's Box, Northwest Sport, Frame of Mind, Country Store, LS Cedar, The Little House, Vashon Business Info
www.VashonPages.com

Find the Loop on-line at www.vashonloop.com.

Compost the Loop
The Loop's soy-based ink is good for composting.

Next Edition of The Loop Comes out Thursday, December 9

Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, December 3**



HOME TEAM REALTY

Troy and Marie's Listings

Call us if you are interested in seeing any of these properties, or any others that are listed for sale.
We can be reached at 206.463.LIST (5478)

Prime Downtown Commercial Space

Rare opportunity to buy or rent a corner lot commercial property in the core of Vashon with ample parking, great signage, and recently refurbished interior. Suitable for a variety of businesses. Owners are licensed agents in the State of Washington. Call 206.463.5478 for more information.



- 1200 sft
- 3 rooms (office, conference, etc.) plus spacious reception area
- 2 restrooms
- kitchenette
- ample storage
- plenty of paved parking

\$550,000 to buy \$1500 per month to lease



Upcoming events at the Q

December 11

Kat Eggleston and Kate MacLeod play a very special holiday show.

Seating at 6:30 and 8:30. Reservations please. 206.463.5355

Please bring a donation to the Vashon Food Bank.

Non-food items too! Laundry detergent, tp, toothpaste, etc.

December 18

Chuck Roehm and Riverbend are back for another Cowboy Country Christmas

Juicy steaks, cheap whiskey, foot stomping' tunes

December 23

Join us for a Thursday night holiday dinner!

We will be closed Dec 24 and Dec 25.

Fall and winter hours at the Q

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Special events and private parties the rest of the week.

Rooms available seven days a week!

www.quartermasterinn.com

Call for reservations

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In the heart of beautiful Burton by the Sea...

A Note from Wolftown

I thought I’d clear something up with a little letter to the editor.

You need a permit to do Wildlife rehab. This is because of the nature of infectious disease and protocol involving the safety of wildlife and the public. We are taught in Rehab to recognise various types of zoonoses, this is very important for health of wild populations and public safety. Wildlife rehabbers deal with rabies, leptospirosis, SARS and Avian Flu protocol, oil spills and mass strandings.

I have called Public health on rabies and cases where necropsy was required to determine specific diseases.

We at Wolftown know how to safely return animals to the wild without imprinting. Imprinting is when an animal recognises people as ‘friend’ this is not safe for them, or for us. In large mammals like deer it can be dangerous.

Also when euthanasia is required we have resources above the public norm. This provides a level of safety for the community and less suffering for the animal. We work closely with King County Sheriffs on some of these cases close to houses and roads.

Vashon is a more suburban area now and we have to face the facts that result from that.

Wildlife rehabbers network with other facilities. For help and support and as a way to identify what is going on in terms of infectious diseases. For example If I get raccoons in with Lepto- I know I’ll soon see it in other species, I then can also warn other off island facilities.

Wolftown often gets help from Zoos and researchers and biologists and vets where all of us compound data for the benefit of Wildlife and ecosystems.

I personally am on the boards of two Wildlife Organizations, one for big predators the other for Wildlife in WA State.

I started working with wildlife over 25 years ago. I had some reservations on working with the state and federal agencies. While the red tape can be a pain, for the most part the sharing of ideas and information between professionals HELPS US ALL! And greatly helps Wildlife. The biologists I work with are Saints.

Vashon is a closed eco-system I have been working on data here regarding diseases and parasite loads for many many years with Dr Thorne.

If everyone does not help Wolftown gather data- If everyone does not work as a team- we are losing a valuable tool for expanding knowledge on how Humanity, ecosystems, wildlife and domestic species function as a whole.

Do you have sheep and goats? Suffered any losses lately? Wormers not working? See thin sick deer around? Get the picture? We are working on it.

If you want to help- That’s great please do! But let us know, it helps us with our gathering of data. If you cannot reach us and wish to transport wildlife off Island- Great! But take the animal to a permitted Wildlife rehabber. Do not attempt to rehab a wild animal yourself. And it is ILLEGAL and for a good reason.

Many of the cases I have gotten over the years are animals that are sick from incorrect care. One person didn’t understand the use of antibiotics after songbirds were attacked by a cat and died. One person fed a fawn soy milk. One person was stealing baby seals from the beaches. I could go on and on.

If you want to help on island- GREAT! I will train you- sub permit you! I already have folks that help with marine mammals and song birds, squirrels and baby raccoons. I need more help! I don’t want to do it all, nor can I.

Lets work together!
Thanks Vashon
T and Pete Yamamoto
Volunteers and Staff, members and Board of Wolftown

206-463-9113
wolftown@centurytel.net
www.wolftown.org

Island Apron Story



As the light begins to fade and winter holidays arrive on Vashon, family rituals surface. Traditional foods, favorite board games and aprons reappear in our homes. For example, the women of all generations in Islander Ginny Nichols’ home don aprons from her stupendous collection as the family gathers. Vashon Maury Heritage Museum celebrates the apron tradition in its new show “A String of Aprons

Actually aprons have been part of our rituals for centuries. Kirdi brides in West Africa have worn traditionally short aprons featuring intricate bead and shell work. Colorful appliquéd aprons attached to long pink sashes have long been present at ceremonies of the Hmong in Thailand . As early as the 17th century aprons were treasures of a young European girl’s trousseau. So Ginny isn’t wavering far from an age old custom when she brings her aprons out in December

Many of Nichols’ aprons are from the heyday of apron art in America: the 1930’s, ‘40’s and “50’s .Housework was a serious endeavor then and a woman might change her apron 3 or 4 times a day from a simple working apron for cleaning to a sturdy protective kitchen one and finally to the decorative or “ceremonial” serving apron for the evening meal. There is evidence of fine stitchery and the love of design in all types of aprons, especially the decorative ones.

. Ginny, who can hardly remember a time in her life when she didn’t sew, began collecting aprons a quarter of a century ago. Originally she sought out aprons in second hand shops for her vintage quilting. But she soon fell in love with the aprons and couldn’t bear to cut them up. She marvels at their handiwork: hand stitched rick rack hems, detailed crocheted edges, and pressed points on the strings. And the pockets!! Half pockets, hidden pockets, heart shaped pockets and more.

Come see the aprons. Have a chance to admire the beautiful sewing that Ginny appreciates. Ink in your own apron story if you like. There is also a fabulous array of old and new aprons, The Sportsmen’s Club famous friendship apron, and many aprons that have brought generations together.

The show opens on Friday, December 3rd at the Vashon Maury Island Heritage Museum. It runs through February 15th. The Museum is at 10105 Bank Road. It is open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 1-4PM.

Only on Vashon

Continued from Page 1

perfectly pleased with these wonderful people who’d come to see him and took him on a long walk for some reason. Quite unusual that walk was, yes, but he’s a friendly sort and there were those treats in their pockets.

But when the kind folks returned a second time about a week later Zany was having none of it. There had been a lot of luggage lying around all week, the kind that appears when the family is going somewhere. The energy around the house had been very off, his beloved Robin was often in tears, something radical was going on.

So Zany hightailed it to the chicken coop for a couple of hours, ignoring all calls.

It was Robin who found him of course, perhaps she’d known he was there all along?, and with her soothing voice she coaxed him out and gently into the backseat of the (now baby-talking) couples’ car.

I’ll leave the rest of this scene to your imagination. It was quite heartbreaking. Suffice it to say the car rolled down the driveway with Zany peering out the back window, the gravel seemingly making a thunderous crunching, as if amped up for effect on a bigscreen.

The family just stood there. Robin claims she was physically unable to move, her legs simply couldn’t walk.

Meantime Zany and new family barely made it to the next scheduled ferry where they were the last car on, giving Zany a full view of his beloved island home as the boat pulled away. Though the ride was short, the couple thought perhaps they should go upstairs and get their new boy some water. At this point the boat was perhaps a hundred yards offshore.

The passenger side door was barely open a crack when Zany bolted out, skidded down the tarmac and sailed (dock-diving-dog that he is) off into Puget Sound. As an instant crowd gathered at all vantage points alternately cheering him on and pleading for him to come back, the bobbing head of Zany quickly disappeared until, off in the distance several minutes later, the tiny image of a dog could be seen coming ashore, giving a quick shake, and continuing on.

Zany was going home.

The rest of the story was witnessed by anybody who might have driven Vashon highway between the ferry dock and town that bright October Day. It was the glorious site of a magnificent muscled Labrador retriever straddling the centerline in a nonstop sprint.

By the time he’d rounded Cove Road and was within blocks of home word had reached the family many times over, via their cell phones, that he was on his way.

They were still transfixed in the same spot when he came barreling back down the driveway, virtual waterfalls of tears now flowing on all concerned. It was even okay that this wet filthy slobbering dog knocked Robin over and drenched her in saltwater and dog kisses.

There was no point in discussing it further. A better decision had been made for them after they’d been too overwhelmed to judge correctly. Zany wasn’t going anywhere, he wasn’t expendable, he was perhaps even the necessary element to help survive the rest of it.

They’d just have to get a place that took dogs.

End of story.

peter@vashonloop.com

Monday - Friday 5:30am - 3:00pm
Saturday 7:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday 8:00am - 2:00pm

17311 Vashon Hwy Sw

Live Entertainment Weekly

November 26, at 8:30pm
TV Dinner

November 27, at 9:00pm
Cargo Jam

December 3, at 8:30pm
Kevin Joyce & Kat Eggleston

December 4, at 9pm
Hillstomp & McDougal

17618 Vashon Hwy SW
206.463.5959

Sunday - Thursday
Bistro & Sushi service
11:30am to 9pm
Lounge is Open
11:30am to midnight

Friday & Saturday
Bistro & Sushi service
11:30am to 10pm
Lounge is Open
11:30am to 2am

See our schedule on our Website
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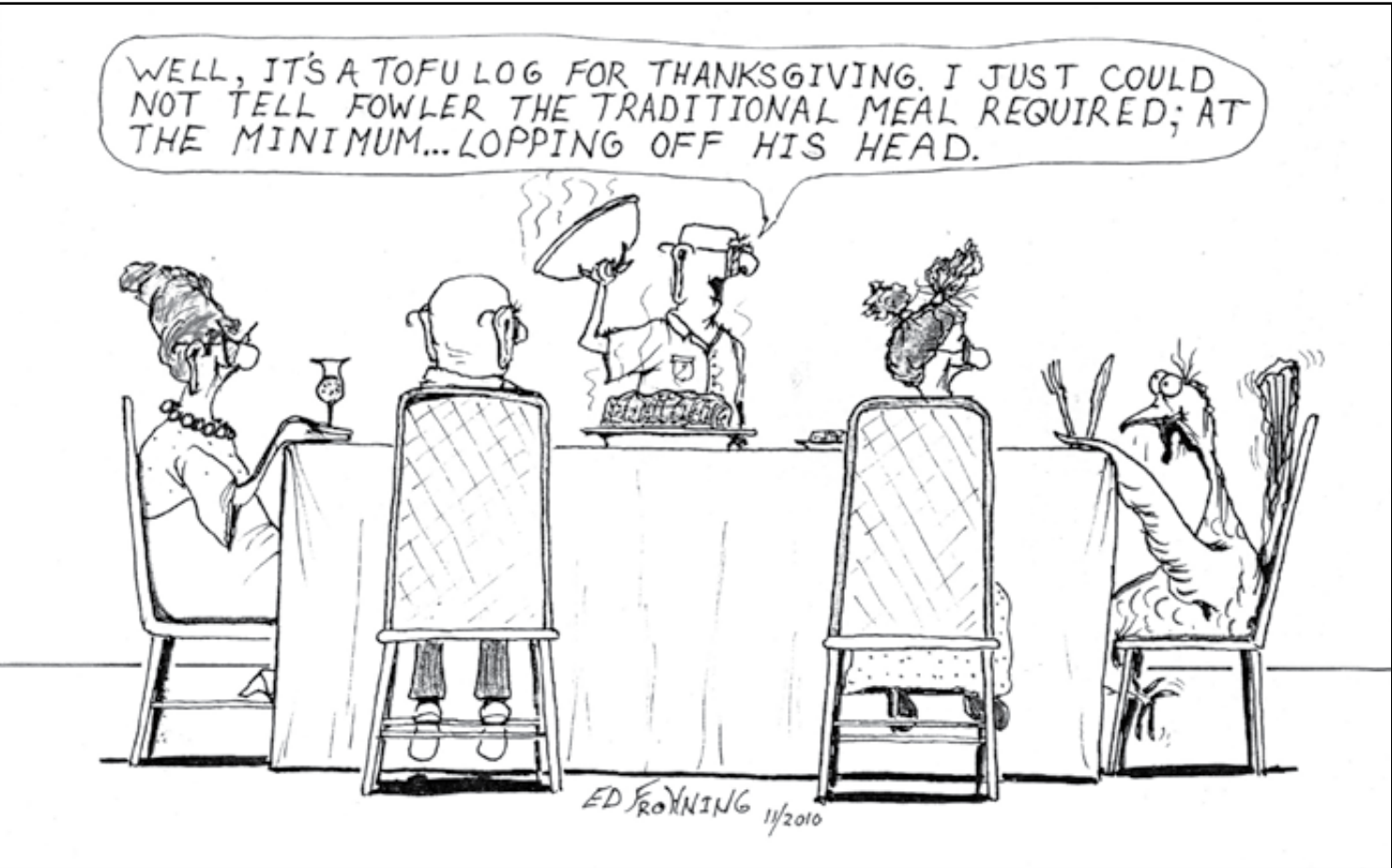
Island Life Looking Glass

by Peter Ray

I switched my desktop photo the other day to a front and back shot of what appears to be a naked woman. It is supposed to be an image from one of those full body scanners that are going to save the world from terrorists on airplanes, but as with anything that seems to pass as news these day, it could just as easily have been something that someone somewhere in the Ministry of Truth made up to help fill out an otherwise dull news day. One could say that it is almost tasteful, which is why it works as background material to icons on the flatscreen. There are no “revealing details” offered up in this image, which is why it passed the decency test and was attached to a general news item that went out on the wire. The humanoid it represents has been transformed into a jagged dark line that traces the form of the body and its appendages, while lighter, softer lines suggest various contours and shapes. The face these lines sketch bears a vague resemblance to Dr. Suess’s Grinch. There is the ever so slightest tonal shift around the head that hints at the presence of shoulder length hair. The arms, of course, are held high in both images in what I have come to recognize as the “I Surrender” position. It is therefore the perfect representation of what we have been reduced to.

I was going to end that last sentence as “what we have become”, but that would imply a natural order of things like, you know, evolution. There is nothing natural about stepping into a booth in order to be bombarded by radiation, and there is nothing right about having the only option to scanning be a full body grope down by a less than perfect stranger. Being of sound mind, one might consider these measures to be unreasonable. It was the case not terribly long ago, as I recall, that one could walk freely into an airport with a ticket, a suitcase, a concealed weapon, a pack of cigarettes and some form of self-igniting combustible material and board a plane unmolested. In this regard, molestation that is, it has been noted that capturing and storing naked images of children has been ruled to be a violation of child pornography laws, no matter who is doing it. And it wasn’t that long ago in Oregon that a Senator Bob Packwood lost his job because of an uncontrolled case of groping. As with many things these days while the meaning of words continues to change, one can’t be certain of what is “right” until it is put in the form of a sentence relating to national security, however loosely that is defined or interpreted.

There is a lot to be confused about in the ever spinning world of infotainment. Most recently I was surprised to see an item stating that Republican Florida Representative John Mica was calling for the removal of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) from airport screening duties. It was just as interesting to read that as Chairman of the House subcommittee on Aviation from 2001-2006, Mica co-authored the Aviation Transportation Security Law which established the TSA. Mica now claims that the TSA has become a bloated bureaucracy that has become obsolete, and that private contractors could do the job cheaper and more efficiently. It was also noted that \$81,000 in Mica’s campaign contributions came from private contractors already involved in security operations at sixteen airports in these United States. Curiously, I just read an article in a copy of the Nation magazine from 2007 which referenced a speech given about how the Pentagon had become a bloated bureaucracy



and how national security could be better achieved through outsourcing of defense operations to private contractors. Donald Rumsfeld gave that speech at the Pentagon on September 10, 2001.

There are a few of us who believe that what happened the next day was not a simple coincidence. If you are remotely curious, Google buildingwhat.org and see a different take on where our fear of terrorists continues to derive from. As for legalized airport strip searches, one can imagine why these are now being made to be so intrusive. Certainly someone from the less bloated, service-oriented private sector could do it better. A point that continues to be brought up in this regard is that no matter who is running the machines and/or doing the groping, the rules of engagement are still the same. If one were to apply another Rumsfeld proposition about private sector outsourcing to airport screening, it would be that the people involved should “... behave less like bureaucrats and more like venture capitalists...”. Then one could imagine an entrepreneurial model adopted by Disney and subverted on the internets. I’m referring to Splash Mountain, where certain female participants on that amusement ride have exposed themselves intentionally at the point where a Disney camera was set up to capture the thrilled expressions on riders’ faces. It was of course an individual’s choice that added a pair of surprises to what would otherwise have been a fairly ordinary memento. Along these lines, the money making possibilities at scanner equipped airports are endless. After surrendering to the machine, Blackwater (or Xe as they’re now known) employees might ask you if you would like to help support their efforts at keeping you safe by buying back the images they just took of you, ensuring that they somehow do not mysteriously wind up at Travelers Gone Wild. For a fee, you can even press the button marked erase. That, I’m sure, will ease you’re troubled mind.

Find the Loop on-line at
www.vashonloop.com.

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, Dec 3



BLOOMS
& things

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
November 26-27, 10AM-5PM

*Come share in the holiday spirit!!
Hot cider and homemade cookies
Open Sundays Dec. 5, 12, 19 from 10AM-4PM*

*See our beautiful selection of
decorated wreaths and centerpieces!*

*Distinctive and affordable holiday gifts...
Featuring local artisans... Charles N. Pete linen designs,
Susan Garlik lamps, John Moore carved spoons,
Ray Pfortner Photography & Jack Stewart, woodcraftsman*



Free gift wrap!

Blooms & Things - 17600 Vashon Hwy. ,S.W. - Vashon WA 98070 - (206) 463-3682



Care Packages Sought for Fallen Soldier’s Platoon

When Vashon’s 1st Lt. Robert Bennedsen was killed in Afghanistan last month, he had only been in the country three weeks, but he had already come up with a plan of support for men and women under his command.

He told his family that while he enjoyed care packages from home, many in his platoon never received anything. He hoped the people of Vashon would change that.

Bennedsen’s family and friends wish to fulfill Bennedsen’s plan and ask that Islanders donate cash to the cause or give items the men and women there have requested. The list includes mechanic’s gloves, green uniform socks, sunscreen, hand warmers, preserved foods, powdered Gatorade, cans of tuna, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, reading material, flip flops and hard candy, according to Lauren Chinn, who is helping to organize the effort.

Islanders can drop off both types of donations for Bennedsen’s platoon at James Hair Design or Bank of America.

Allie Needs A Home...



Hobbes was left behind when his owner moved away. It is hard to think that anyone could leave such a sweetheart to fend for himself but that was the plate that was served to this boy. Hobbes will greet the shelter volunteers with gentle rubs and he loves to be petted and brushed. Hobbes is looking for a place where he can retire in style and get first class meals and lots of lap time.

Go To www.vipp.org - Click on Adopt

Environment and Your Health

by Rochelle Gravance
NAFC Master Level Certified
IYCA Level 2 Conditioning Specialist
Physique Transformation Specialist
Habitsforming.com
Habitsforming@yahoo.com



What would you say if I told you argument can be made that those that live in rural parts who eat fried foods and very little on the side of veggies, fruit and every new health tonic might be healthier than those that follow a much cleaner diet? Even those that eat primarily a vegetarian diet and exercise regularly might not live as long as those who maintain a fried red meat diet and have never set foot in a gym.

Impossible? Maybe not according to Japanese researchers and my own experience. Recently I was fortunate enough to place watchful eyes on quite a number of old timers living life the only way they know. For three weeks I took note of the eating habits and daily activities of those individuals that grew up and continue to farm, ranch and live in rural Wyoming.

After twenty plus days of living and working with various characters well into their 60's, 70's and 80's that still have fire in their eyes and a functional body to put in a good old days work my wheels started spinning. I wondered what keeps these hard living, whiskey drinking, tobacco spitting, red meat eating, scarred, weathered and leathered men and women kicking like a mule instead of kicking the bucket.

I had my suspicions and maybe now some research to back it up. These cowboys and ranchers have been practicing Shinrin-yoku.

Shinrin-yoku (forest bathing-walking-staying in the forest to promote health) is some of the latest research to come out of Japan that compares exercise (walking specifically) or spending time in the woods compared to the same exercise and time spent in the city. The results of several similar studies yielded related and significant results.

Conclusion of one major study involving 498 healthy men and women: "revealed that forest environments are advantageous with respect to acute emotions, especially among those experiencing chronic stress. Accordingly, shinrin-yoku may be employed as a stress reduction method, and forest environments can be viewed as therapeutic landscapes. Therefore, customary shinrin-

yoku may help to decrease the risk of psychosocial stress-related diseases."

In similar studies pulse rate, blood pressure and cortisol levels were significantly reduced while feelings of calmness, being comfortable and feeling refreshed were experienced. Additionally, the practice of shinrin-yoku has shown to increase levels of natural killer cells by fifty percent and increase the level of white blood cells which lasted 7 or more days after the forest experience.

The suggestion here is not to take up a diet of fried foods, Jim Bean and Marlboros. What you may want to consider is getting back to being human. Being in nature, moving the body (and not by means of exercise only) and really living may go a long way to promote health and well being that pushing the pavement, punching the keyboard, stomping the treadmill and attempting to sustain oneself between four walls can never do.

Now don't go thinking about buying a ranchette and moving to Wyoming because neither I nor they want to be crowded and I may be hanged if word got out about this article. Just get yourself out and about in nature as often as possible and practice the roots of what it means to be human.

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Wait to See ‘Waiting for Superman’

– a Vashon PTSA Special Event Sunday Dec. 12,
3:30 P.M. followed by panel discussion at 5:10 pm

By: Shannon Flora

"Waiting for Superman" has rapidly become one of the most talked about and acclaimed films of the year. The documentary, directed by Academy Award winner, Davis Guggenheim ("An Inconvenient Truth") takes an unflinching look at the struggling U.S. School system. Vashon Theater has landed the film for a short run and Vashon PTSA will host a special showing of the film on Sunday Dec. 12 at 3:30 p.m. The showing will be followed by a 5:10 pm panel discussion featuring Scott Allen - Board President Washington State PTA, Leanne Hawkins - Region 6 Legislative Chair Washington PTA, Alma Villegas - Seattle Director of national advocacy group STAND for Children, Deborah Salas, Executive Director of Community School Collaboration and a representative from the Washington Education Association. The panel will be moderated by islander, former community council member and attorney, Craig Beles.

"Waiting for Superman" has been heaped with superlatives by critics around the country; USA Today declared it "One of the Year's Best Films". Other descriptions are equally lofty, "Must See", "Passionate", "Gripping", "Powerful", "Exhilarating", "Shocking", "Inspiring". No what matter your perspective on this critical issue, you are sure to get plenty to think about at "Waiting for Superman". The panel discussion is free, and the movie is at regular matinee prices. Vashon PTSA will have other prizes in store at the event for those who renew their PTSA memberships.

The United States now ranks near bottom as compared to other advance countries in the areas of math and reading. Despite best efforts, reformers, superintendents, teachers and even Presidents have made little progress in reversing this trend. Teachers are naturally wary regarding this particular film, as it tackles the subjects of unions and charter schools while following the journey of 5 hopeful children hoping to win a lottery that will bring them out of their failing inner city school into a charter school with limited slots available. For some of the children and their parents, they perceive the charter

school as their only chance for success and the only escape from poverty or a life of crime.

In addition to these children, the film focus on the efforts of education reformers David Levin and Mike Feinberg of KIPP Schools, Geoffrey Canada founder of the Harlem Children's Zone. Michelle Rhee, superintendent of Washington D.C. Schools is featured prominently and made news recently when she resigned her position.

What is the cause of our failing U.S. schools? The reasons are many, intertwined, and complex. This film shines the light on but a few and asks the question "Who will be the hero to rescue public education in the United States?" No matter what the reason, and what or who is to blame, the film is a must see call to action for all who value education and the fate of our children and ultimately the future of our country. It is a starting point for an important dialogue of what can be done, by school districts, by teachers, by parents, by politicians, by reformers, by activists to create world class education for a country that prides itself in being the leader of the free world. How can we lead when our children are failing?

"We know this movie has become a hot-button for teachers, for parents, for advocates for children," said PTSA President Lauri Hennessey. "We have a tight community. We believe it is incumbent upon the PTSA to gather people so we can view the movie, hear the facts, and have a discussion together. We wanted to create that opportunity, and it is no surprise that our fantastic Vashon Theatre is giving us a way to do that."

In the meantime, Vashon PTSA is also planning a screening of "Race to Nowhere" as part of the new PTSA/Vashon Theater Parent Film Series, "Race to Nowhere" is another talked-about documentary that examines the testing culture in U.S. schools. "Race" offers a somewhat different perspective than "Superman" and the screening is being planned for early 2011. Updated information about the film series will be posted at www.vashonptsa.org.

202 local VFW Essay Entries

The Veterans received 202 Essays from the Chautauqua Elementary, McMurray, Vashon High and The Harbor Schools in response to the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Essay Contest on November 1, 2010. The Vashon citizens are authorized to be very proud of our students, school teachers and administrators, Mom's and Dad's, our dedicated businesses and our loving and caring neighbors and leaders. Fourteen dedicated citizens volunteered to judge these 202 essays on Tuesday, November 9th. These judges, listed below, have been doing this important job for many years and they deserve to be recognized for helping our leaders of tomorrow, our students, to be the citizens, of these United States of America, that they are

capable of being. Norm Mathews, Tim Marsh, Betsey and Clay Gleb, all from Thriftway, Kiki Holbrook, Jan Perry, from the Vashon Pharmacy, Kevin Britz, Hazel Smith, Marj Watkins, John Moore, Bart Queary, David Parker, Joe Ulatoski and Tommy Lorentzen.

Gang, when you have the opportunity to thank our students and our Judges, please tell them that they make a huge positive difference in this community and that they are really-really appreciated. Nine Vashon students essays are being forwarded to VFW District 2 to be evaluated with the Seattle students essays. The rest of the story will be provided in January, 2011.

Olde John Croan

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, Dec 3

Make a date with Vashon!
www.VashonCalendar.org
Vashon Library Events
Art & Music Events
Submit your Event on line at
www.vashoncalendar.org



Aries (March 20-April 19)
I recently got into a conversation with the proprietor of a local mystical bookstore; the topic was whether poo is ‘spiritual’. I was making the case that everything has a role in the universe, and you cannot subtract something from the natural world and claim that it’s ungodly. Cultured people tend to keep things in their appropriate places, but we need to be careful what we close our minds to. At the moment your astrological region of spiritual -- Sagittarius, your solar 9th house -- contains just about every ingredient known to humanity, from politics (Pallas) to murder (Ixion) to the language and the Internet (Mercury) to the zealous use of alcohol (Pholus) to sexual desire and ambition (Mars). This is not the time to ‘not think about chocolate cake’ when you’re meditating. It’s the time to look at the world and grant everything equal meaning, and notice how the many pieces of the cosmos fit together to reveal the mystery of existence.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)
You have more talent than you reveal, including to yourself. I’m going to guess (it’s an educated guess) that you may feel that if you dare put some of that talent on display, you’ll be revealed as someone who’s faking it half the time, but I’m here to suggest that the opposite is true. All the people whose work and accomplishments you admire were folks who got up every day and set about doing what they do, learning at every step along the way. One of those steps was offering their talent or gift to the world. You have an abundance of natural ability that’s likely to far exceed your current understanding of what you’re capable of. On some level you seem to fear conflict arising if you express yourself, though that would not be the case if you set aside your competitive nature and took the one chance that sooner or later everyone who actually lives has to take -- being you.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)
Lately you’re playing the role of the beloved Lt. Uhura of the Enterprise. Her job was to find the right frequency on which to speak to any aliens in the vicinity, to persist until meaningful contact was established, and to keep the conversation cool. Don’t worry if you have to be compromising, diplomatic or flexible -- those are strengths and assets that will work to your advantage. The important thing is that you understand what others are saying, and that you then guide things into the next step of making sure you’re understood. This would be especially true if someone seems aggressive or single-minded. Apparently you have something they need. In the kind of interpersonal politics with which you’re currently involved, it’s in bounds to trade favors, to use leverage and to turn a potentially contentious situation into something useful that works for everyone. Be creative; be fair; go for what you want.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
This matter you’re considering that is on the verge of public and private, is something you seem to want known, and you’ll feel better when it’s no longer private. You will reveal things to yourself by exposing them to others; the feedback from the outer world is an essential mirror of understanding that will propel you deeper into yourself. And deeper is the way you want to go: every factor involving your relationships or intimate contacts is pulling you in that direction like a colossal magnet. Whether these are seemingly work-related contacts or seemingly personal ones, always remember that you exist in the human dimension, and that its protocols are inherently hormonal. If you’re concerned about breaking rules, keep your sense of humor. If you’re

concerned about being too obvious, wear red, and a hat with peacock feathers.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)
The Sun bursts into your fellow fire sign Sagittarius with a spectacular Full Moon over the weekend, and then commences what promises to be a wild adventure over the next four weeks. You’ve already had hints about just how daring you can be. The place to draw the line is not focusing on ‘safety’ but rather on creative passion. That is to say, strive for the kind of fun that is inherently about you, with that being its main quality of boldness. If you do, you’ll tap directly into an energy source you always seem to lust after but less often make direct contact with. The adventure of the coming weeks blurs the lines between friends and lovers, work and play, for-serious and for-pleasure. You may freely drop all pretense of needing to impress anyone or seek approval; if there’s a ‘lesson’ involved, that’s the one. Your life is for you and the people you want to share it with.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
In a theater, the distance between onstage and offstage is a few inches on either side of the wings, but that’s the difference between being part of the scene or behind it. At the moment, you’re trying to do both at once, and though you often prefer to work invisibly, you seem to be craving an opportunity to step into the lights. Any hesitation that may be stopping you is not exactly your own; it seems to be the property of prior generations. Your charts this year have been an extended study in going beyond the influences of the distant past and taking your rightful place at the center of your life. You have no need -- an emotional impulse, perhaps, but not a need -- to please or satisfy your father’s image of you. That fictitious struggle is the one thing that stands between you and actual self-acceptance. Embrace yourself and be known for doing so. That is freedom.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)
At long last, Venus has stationed direct in your birth sign. This six-week journey has come with many questions, and instigated an inner search that has led you to one inevitable conclusion: this thing you’re living is your life, or it’s nothing at all. You have seen the influences that others can exert on you, and you’ve discovered that you’re strong enough to discern your true self within so much competition by others to define who you are. You’ve grasped far closer to your center core than you may yet realize; you’ve gone deep enough into yourself to activate an authentic transformation rather than a change of appearance. You’re working from sufficient strength that if you actually live out your values, in the form of experimenting with the choices that you actually want to make, you will rapidly gain strength, momentum and integrity.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)
It’s difficult to look at the chart for this weekend’s Full Moon and not see some theme of self-esteem appear for any of the signs, though this is particularly true for Scorpio. You may think you’re striving for ‘spiritual’. You may think you’re reaching for purity, for liberation from physical desire or freedom from emotional impulse. In my reading, what you actually want is to surrender to unconditional acceptance of who you are and what you want. If there is any negotiating to be done, it’s going to be on your terms: which are useful because all you seek is level ground. You may be confronted by the fact that someone may not like your idea of what is true for you, despite not understanding it. I would just make one suggestion -- never negotiate for your freedom. You already have it, and negotiation only obscures that basic fact.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)
For weeks now, energy has been rapidly gathering in your sign, and it’s not going away anytime soon. The Sun makes its entrance this weekend carried by the momentum of the Full Moon. I want to remind you that while events from this point forward may seem to move quickly and perhaps unexpectedly, you’ve been working with a longterm plan that has, so far, been effective at giving you what you want. If you’re hesitating, please get over yourself. Keep your agenda focused and remember to go for the gems of your desires first. The one caveat described by the planets loud and clear is correct speech. You can do very nearly anything you want as long as you’re polite. Sagittarius is usually perceived by we mortals as being needlessly brusque, so remember to speak from a gentle place -- and understate your case. You’re plenty compelling without needing to persuade.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
Solve your problems before they become big problems. At the moment you have some profound insight into how to do not only that, but to move the pieces around the chessboard such that you’re in a position of true advantage. If you’ve been hesitating on anything, it’s this one point of playing the game to win, taking full authority or however you may want to describe it. This is an inner phenomenon, not anything you need to do in the outer world. You’re at a point where you can align the thread and the needle and pull the thread through all of the many layers of yourself. They are unified by one thing, which is purpose. Authentic purpose exists on a level deeper than we tend to think of it; on a level deeper than (from what I hear) many people believe they can access -- but you can; you’re right there.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
The next few weeks will have a distinct feature that blends ease of flow and various struggles to get to the next stage of your evolution. You can parlay one with the other; a bit of challenge keeps life interesting, and a bit of luck is always encouraging. Yet the adventure of these weeks is a relatively minor phase of what has, in truth, been an extremely long journey. This trek has taken you through yourself from somewhere that you may have actually verged on being clueless about what you wanted or who you were, to a place where you’re now working with actual knowledge, experience and principles. The question as ever seems to be about taking action. I suggest you work backwards from a goal. Focus on what you want, and the steps to getting there will be obvious. Prepare for a surge forward around the time of your birthday, perhaps a bit sooner.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
The Sun crosses your career angle this weekend, where it will soon make contact with numerous other planets in that angle of your chart. This will have an activating effect, calling attention to you and what you do -- and to how well you do it. So I would ask, a little in advance: how do you feel about success? Do you consider it an adventure, or something barely worth the trouble? I suggest you make up your mind, because more than anything the planets are configured in such a way that you get what you aim for. That’s to say: aim for something meaningful. There are likely to be many smaller opportunities buzzing around; there may be people who think you still have some dues to pay. Brush them off and keep your attitude positive. Right now, you’re visible, and you’re a magnet. Choose your opportunities. Define success your very own way.

Read Eric Francis daily at www.PlanetWaves.net.

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Spiritual Smart Aleck



www.spiritualsmartaleck.blogspot.com

How I Write a Blog by Mary Tuel

A young friend who is a graduate student has asked me about the process of writing and posting a blog.

First: I need an idea. Sometimes ideas are handed to me, like “how I write a blog.” Thank you, Amelia.

Sometimes I am interested in something, and I do some research and write about that subject. Case in point: the recent series of columns on the pioneers who developed treatments for renal failure.

Those columns also tapped my personal experience. Personal experience is a rich source of material, and I’ve now lived long enough and done enough that I can tell stories until everyone in the room is asleep with their mouths open and drool running out.

Occasionally something will happen that catches my attention so vividly I write about it. Latest example: a few months ago President Obama was in town, and some poor guy in a private plane didn’t know that the air space over Seattle was restricted during the President’s visit. Two military jets scrambled from Portland and flew up here so fast that they caused a couple of sonic booms which (a) shook our whole house, and (b) scared the bewhatsis out of a lot of people in the Puget Sound, thereby causing the 911 system in Tacoma and other areas to crash from the call overload.

So, I get the idea and I start writing. My most used reference is my dictionary. That tells me if I’m using the exact word that conveys my meaning, and how it is spelled. Spell check can be helpful, but it will make suggestions like “collisions” when I really mean Colossians, a book of the Bible. Funny, but not helpful.

Online is my second go-to after the



Blogger at work

dictionary. I go to several different sites about any given subject because I’ve found they will say slightly different things and I’m looking for a consensus of information that will be as factual as I can make it.

The writing process is a combination of writing, tweaking what I’ve written, staring out the window without seeing anything, and looking things up.

I write a first draft that includes everything. Anne Lamott says, “Write a s****y first draft.” Asterisks supplied in consideration of Loop readers’ tender sensibilities. Anyway, Anne Lamott is right. I write a first draft, then I let that draft sit for an unspecified length of time, anywhere from long enough to eat breakfast to a couple of days. When I come back to it, the serious tweaking and cutting begin.

William F. Buckley said, “Be grateful for every word you cut.” I doubt if Bill and I agreed on much, but that is my number one rule as a writer.

So, I come back to the first draft with refreshed eyes, and cut, re-write, edit and proofread until I’m satisfied. That can take hours, or days.

Sometimes I’ll write a whole piece, think about it, and throw it out. Oh well.

It is good to have a photo or illustration with a blog. I prefer to use a photo I have taken, or, if I’m lucky, a drawing my husband has done. Rick’s cartoons always have humor, which can range from whimsical to perverse, and I have learned to trust his instincts for what a ‘toon should be, even if I’m slightly horrified when he tells me what he’s going to draw.

Now I’m going to go eat breakfast.

Okay, I’m back. When I think the piece is as succinct and clear as it is going to get, I post it. I go to my blog page, paste the copy in, upload images, and hit “Publish.” Then I read it and find the typos I couldn’t see before. When I’m satisfied with the post, I send out a blog alert to an email list of people who might want to read it. Then I’m free for a while, until the need to write reasserts itself.

That’s my process. The blog address is: www.spiritualsmartaleck.blogspot.com. Thanks for asking.

Art Tour

Continued from Page 1

The Inventive Art of Japanese Shaped Resist Dyeing, by Yoshiko Wada, Mary Kellog Rice, and Jane Barton. Jeweler and smalti (Byzantine glass) tile artist Nadine Edelstein, tile artist Elaine Summers, and spinner and wood worker Karen Hurst will be joining Terri in her studio.

Puppy Paws features vases, wall art, and dishes of hard translucent fused glass as well as the soft opaque cloth creations of Kasia Stahanacyk. Kasia even made the metal sign for Puppy Paws Studio. Look for her commuter’s cup warmers with a pocket to hold the punch card from your favorite coffee kiosk.

Kathy Pine has all kinds of goodies

to lure us to her studio at the end of Maury Island. Her exquisite jewelry is made from reclaimed silver and Kazuri beads hand crafted by single mothers in Kenya. She will also host Dan Duchan’s garden art, Debbie Duchan’s weaving and knitting, Jo Robinson’s photographs, Maggie Smith’s hand crafted bags, Kristine Dahms’ cards, and JKL Bags’ handmade shopping bags. All that and food too!

These are just a few examples of what you will discover on this season’s Art Studio Tour. Grab a friend and come on out!



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Vashon Library Program Calendar December 2010

Great Books Discussion Group
Monday, December 6, 2010
7:00 PM
The Great Books Discussion Group meets on the first Monday of the month, September through June. The selection for December is “The Garden of Forking Paths” by Jorge Luis Borges in “Great Books #3”. Visitors are welcome. The only requirement to participate is that you have read the material under discussion.

Toddler Story Time
Tuesdays, December 7 and 14, 2010
10:40 AM
Ages 18 months to 3 years with adult. Enjoy a 20-minute program of stories and songs just right for toddlers. Registration not required.

Preschool Story Time
Tuesdays, December 7 and 14, 2010
11:30 AM
Ages 3 to 5.
Join us for 30 minutes of stories, songs and fun!
Registration not required.

Baby and Me Story Time
Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 2010
10:00 AM
Newborn to 18 months with adult. A 20 minute program of stories, songs, rhymes and bounces for babies and a caregiver. Registration not required.

Money for College
Thursday, December 2, 2010
Tim Breithaupt, the College Planning Network
6:30pm-Finding Money for College. Doug will help identify sources of financial aid for college, evaluate the costs of specific schools, and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
7:30pm-The Scholarship Market: How to Find & Apply for Private Scholarships. Learn How private scholarships fit with other forms of financial aid, how to find private scholarships using theWashBoard.org, how to match private scholarships with student characteristics, how to request scholarship materials, how to build community scholarships through Dollars for Scholars, and how to complete scholarship applications.
For adults and young adults. Please pre-register at Vashon Library, 463-2069.
Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library

ESL Classes
Tuesdays, December 7 & 14, 2010
6:00 PM
Adults
Presented by Rebecca Cullimore, teacher
Come to the Vashon Library for free weekly lessons in speaking English as a Second Language.
Child care can be provided. You must request it one week in advance, by speaking to the teacher or calling the library, 206.463.2069.

Late Night @ the Library for Teens
Saturday, December 11, 2010
6:00-10:00 PM
Teens
Bead a bracelet with Mary Ann. Have a psychic reading with Morgan. Limber up with Dance Dance Revolution, play Super Smash Brothers Brawl or Outdoor Challenge on our new Wii, and join the strummers at Guitar Hero open play. Enjoy the Vashon Library Cyber Café and surf the web or play a game. Refreshments! Door prizes! Security will be provided.
For students entering grades 6-12. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.
Holiday Nature Crafts
Sunday, December 12
2-4pm
Presented by Barbara Gustafson
Fragrant evergreen wreaths, sparking fir cones, watercolors, woven ornaments and more... Create lovely gifts for friends and family!! All materials are provided for this free and fun annual holiday workshop.
For ages 5-10. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library. Registration is required and begins Sunday, November 28- please call 463-2069.

Tales of Light for the Dark of Winter
Wednesday, December 22
7pm
Presented by Merna Ann Hecht
Merna Ann Hecht will tell stories from different cultures and traditions about the return of the light and the miracles and magic associated with the Winter Solstice and Holiday season. For ages 7 and older.
Please register beginning Wednesday, Dec. 8- call 463-2069. Sponsored by Friends of the Vashon Library.

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Jay Becker

Vashon Island Community Council

Here are more suggested changes to VMICC by-laws meant to reflect what I have heard at meetings since my last letter on this.

The suggestions are to clarify who does what, respond to Joe Ulatoski’s 32 point critique of VMICC by-laws, policies, and practices, and make the VMICC a more influential tool for Islanders. Joe’s research was referred by the board to the Governance and Policy committee, of which I am a member. Chairman Melvin Mackey says it won’t meet “until the dust settles.” These ideas do not respond to all of Joe’s critiques, but they are a start. These ideas are not GP committee work, only my response to listening to lots of talk.

Four notable changes to the by laws are suggested :

- Board members are charged with evaluating committee functioning and finding chairs for standing committees if no volunteers come forward. The board used to do this. Several standing committees currently lack a leader, yet issues still arise..
- Board members are explicitly charged with offering ideas and strategies for improving the well being of islanders if appropriate standing committees and/or ad hoc committees do not. This clarifies a past practice lately ignored. We recently proved that we can easily and cheaply poll islanders (who use computers and or who have mail boxes) about values, issues, actions.
- Powers and duties of committees

are clarified. A committee of the whole can easily have brainstorming idea-generating meetings as John Runyan proposes. We vote on this at the Jan. 17, 2011 meeting.. James Fiskin* proposes a 21st century improvement on such meetings called Deliberative Polling® which we might like to consider later.

- VMICC’s long standing ability to own property is explicitly noted. Rents could be a possible source of eventual income to fund VMICC polls and even pay a lobbyist.
- Meanwhile, it is worth noting that we’ve already agreed
 - we’ll make most decisions by majority vote,
 - orderly meetings are a better way to enjoy orderly deliberations,
 - the chairperson decides who speaks in what order at meetings, and
 - everyone gets to speak so all views can be heard at least once,

I still do not see any of these changes interfering with the four motions introduced at the September meeting for votes Jan.17, 2011. I’ll vote for them all.

You get this message now because votes to change by-laws happen only twice a year to be sure everyone has ample time to consider them

Feel free to share these ideas with anyone and send or call me with comments.

Jay Becker is a long time Island resident. Former owner and editor of the Vashon Beachcomber.

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Don’t Forget the Birds

by Ed Swan

Kestrel

Prayer for Persistence

Today, I saw a Kestrel catch a mouse in the field along Old Mill Road south of 220th. Every time it perched, a Sharpie harassed it, but it went ahead with its hunting anyway.

Ann Spiers created that little piece from an email I sent once to the Vashon bird alert email list, keeping the same words and order, just changing the line format to make it appear as a poem. Since that email in 2005, a male American Kestrel returned every year to the phone wires along 232nd near Wax Orchard or around the corner on Old Mill Road. That area remains the only reliable spot to find this little falcon on the Island from roughly October through March. Gary Shugart recorded the first sighting of the season there this year on November 7.

Alan Huggins, the keyed observer that leads many Vashon Audubon classes and field trips seems to see them once or twice in spring migrating past his north end house. Ricki Carlson found one passing through in the fall migration at KVI Beach on September 9. The spring and fall passage periods of May and September present the opportunity to find them just about anywhere around Vashon, though points along the shoreline like KVI and Pt. Robinson probably provide the best bet for a sighting.

Once at least uncommon on Vashon, the habitat shift away from open areas such as



Pete Murray’s classic photo of the American Kestrel at Wax Orchard.

farm fields and pasture, clear-cuts and burns towards heavier wood cover has decreased the American Kestrel population on Vashon. It bred in earlier times, possibly up into the early 1990’s at Wax Orchards. They nest in holes and can be attracted to nest boxes built for them if we could get any to stick around in spring. Wax Orchards appears to have been the center of its presence with other locations mostly visited in migration.

Other names for the kestrel include Sparrowhawk and “teeter tail.” The latter name’s origin comes from seeing this little falcon perching on a wire when they often pump their tails up and down as they scan for prey. Sparrowhawk derives from a large part of their food supply, small birds. Mammals such as mice and voles also make up a major portion of what they eat as well as insects. They especially go after large grasshoppers in mid and late summer.

Kestrels belong to the falcon family and

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My Island

Ann Leda Shapiro

MY ISLAND A book by Ann Leda Shapiro
This is the story of a precious place. Inspired by her love for her island home and worried about the threat of environmental damage, Ann Leda has created a picture book that tells the story of one islands’ struggle to maintain its health. Through sixteen colorful, narrative paintings, reminiscent of folk art and Persian miniatures a portrait of a place emerges.

Available at local Vashon stores now or on the web at www.annledashapiro.com

possess the trademark sharp, pointy wings. They fly with a powerful, fast and steady wingbeat and catch their prey in a quick dive. Kestrels present a colorful picture with both sexes having two bold black vertical stripes on their face. Males boast a bright rufous back and tail with blue-gray upperwings and buffy underparts. Females lack the bluish gray on the wings, their entire upper parts appear rufous barred with black and the buffy underparts are streaked with rufous as well.

Other interesting sightings lately include a swan seen by Joy Nelsen seen flying by Pt. Robinson. Another great bird seen at Pt. Robinson came from Sherry Bottoms spotting a Northern Harrier passing through. Randy Smith noted Black Turnstones at their regular winter hangout at Fern Cove and I found them sheltering in the stormy weather in the

nooks and crannies of the dolphins at the north end dock. Randy Smith and I found several Wilson’s Snipe at the Portage Marsh on Veteran’s Day and Gary Shugart observed the first Common Goldeneye of the season at Shawnee on November 6. If you have a question about Vashon birds or a photo or sighting to share, call me at 463-7976 or email at edswan@centurytel.net.

I’m also available as a guide for finding birds around the Island and the Puget Sound region. This is a great time to get a gift certificate for a birding tour. The next few months represent some of the best birding for Vashon with all of the region’s waterfowl on display and easy to see from the Island’s shores. If you have birding friends or relatives coming, give me a call or visit my website at www.theswancompany.com to find out more.

Give the Gift of Birding!

Buy your budding birding enthusiast a gift certificate for a bird tour with Island author and guide Ed Swan. Ed offers tours around the Island and the Puget Sound area.

Ed Swan
463-7976
edswan@centurytel.net

Positively Speaking

For Deirdre, Cat Lover Extraordinaire (And Lover of Books and Reading)

By Deborah H. Anderson

At our house we call her Auntie Deirdre. Boris and Natasha needed a place to stay about a year and a half ago while I moved in increments to our new place. She cared for them as if they were her own. I promised her a column in return.

With all their publicity and support one might think Pet Protectors could coast a bit. But the needs are constant and the resources needed to fulfill the requirements of caring for so many of our Island animals is monumental. So first of all...make sure you buy a wreath to start the holiday season greenery brigade.

Sometimes I think our dogs brought us to Vashon. Before our family ever gave a thought to coming we traveled here to pick out dogs for the kids. Some house I would later know as 'behind Mom's' we took home the puppies

Satchel
Beasley (well Mrs. Beasley) and
Cathy.

Get it? SBC. We thought we were enormously clever. Cathy turned out to have some kind of brain deformity that made her pee all the time as well as being in hyperdrive because of the pain of it. The people at the shelter we took her to after we had tried a second home said it was not fixable and she was , despite her seeming happiness, actually in a fair amount of discomfort. Her skull was too small for her brain. So...with sadness...we parted company and she went to doggy heaven.

Losing Satchel and Mrs Beasley to other homes after only three years with us was equally hard. (understatement of the year). But thanks to Pet Protectors, when we could know longer have dogs because of our housing situation (couch surfing for twenty two months) we knew they were going to homes where they were loved and of service. Isaac had dutifully taken Satchel to obedience training here on the Island and poor thing he just wasn't up to learning how, or so we thought. It wasn't till a friend of Isaac's who lived next door to the people that took Satchel said what they loved about the dog the most was his obedience that we realized the classes had not been in vain.

When , years later, I knew it was time for another dog, they helped me receive Buddy who was literally dumped at my doorstep. 'If it's not a good fit we can find another home' Barbara Drinkwater told



me. And when Boris the cat shot straight out the kitchen window when he met Buddy for the first time and I tearfully called her in a panic, she told me wisely to go outside and call his name repeatedly. 'He will return to ground', she said. (That phrase will be a topic for another column someday no doubt).

Buddy was a mess when he arrived with flea hills so big behind his ears they did the very un-Golden Retriever thing of standing up. He had ulcers all over his legs and no hair on his rump and had not been neutered despite his advanced age. (We'd been told by the previous owners he was about three and in perfect health. They must have had two different dogs and gotten mixed up.)

Anyway, Pet Protectors paid for him to get all doctored up and neutered and although he's still a delightful neurotic mess which makes him all the more loveable, he is happily healthy and has wonderful doggy playdates with the dogs at two of my clients' homes. He is awesome with children and willingly lets them use him like a giant stuffed toy when they've a mind to love on him.

Watching Deirdre's devotion to cat care here on the Island is inspiring. Being the recipient of her love and care for our cats made our move into the new home stress free in at least one area.

They need your help you know. They need you to adopt pets and give them money to take care of the ones who are in transition and to give them your pets when you are moving on instead of just letting them loose. Make Pet Protectors part of your life even if you read about them so often you feel like they already are. We have many things to be proud of here on the Island. Taking good care of our animals is at the top of the list. Please help to keep it going. And if you see or hear from Deirdre Petree, be sure and thank her. Better yet...adopt one of the cats she loves so much. It makes her smile to know they have a good new home.

Love Deborah



THE DORSAL SPIN: Kéet Shuká

By Orca Annie Stateler, VHP Coordinator



Mother Samish (J14) with daughter Hy'Shqa (J37). Photo © Mark Sears.

Odin and I deemed it auspicious when 47 Southern Resident orcas – J and K Pods with honorary member L87 -- visited the Island on November 16, the day before our Audubon program. Evidently, the killer whales were unfazed by the 4.2 earthquake at 7:51 that morning. I have often wondered what they experience during quakes.

The finned flotilla turned north in East Passage near Ellisport and did not make it to Point Robinson. The widely scattered orcas mostly socialized on the southbound trip; researchers collected no prey samples. In the late afternoon, Odin and I beheld J Pod Elders Granny (J2), Ruffles (J1), and Spieden (J8) resting briefly with other podmates on the northbound trip. The estimated ages of these Elders are 99, 59, and 77 respectively; even at rest, they are remarkable. The whales resumed socializing as they approached the Fauntleroy ferry lanes. Alas, they did not vocalize for our hydrophone.

The VHP thanks everyone who remembered to call us directly with sightings. Our veteran spotters Lesley and Ed warrant shout-outs for their diligence and detailed reports on the 16th.

Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP): REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041. Call the VHP about dead, injured, or sick marine mammals on Island beaches. Check for updates at www.Vashonorcas.org. and send photos to Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com.

Odin and I are grateful to Laura Bienen and Vashon-Maury Audubon for inviting us to speak on November 17. We were thrilled to see a standing-room only crowd, and deeply touched by the generosity of the attendees. Fellow wildlife and nature lovers typically ask excellent questions and make the best audiences.

Several audience members inquired about how many salmon the Southern Residents require. One of our salmon slides cites number-of-fish-per-day figures from WDFW's "Washington State Status Report for the Killer Whale."

Earlier this month, Odin and I attended a lecture by NOAA Fisheries biologist Brad Hanson, who studies the orcas' diet. The latest research suggests that, in aggregate, our 87 Southern Residents need 30,000 salmon a month, or roughly 100 pounds per day for an adult killer whale, to survive. Southern Residents prefer the two largest species: Chinook and chum. The orcas target fish from river systems along the West Coast from Central California to Alaska; however, in summer, BC's Fraser River is the Chinook mother lode for Southern Residents.

The Mark Sears photo with my article this week is a classic East Passage shot of mother Samish (J14) with her baby daughter Hy'Shqa (J37), born in 2001. Mark attended the Samish Nation's traditional naming ceremony for Hy'Shqa (pronounced Hish-ka), whose Coast Salish name translates as "blessing" or "thank you." Indeed, these words come to mind upon contemplating a visit from our Kéet relatives and a rewarding presentation in their honor.

Not a fan of Black Friday big box mega-consumerism? The Duwamish Longhouse, 4705 W. Marginal Way in West Seattle, will host a Native Holiday Gift Fair, 10 AM to 5 PM, on Friday 11/26 and Saturday 11/27. Visit Odin's art table and enjoy local Indigenous culture in the stunning, new longhouse of Chief Tse-alth's (Seattle's) people. Admission and parking are free; visit www.duwamishtribe.org or call 206-431-1582 to learn more.

Toby Needs A Home...



This super sweet, adoring Dobie cross loves to run in the woods, on the beach ... anywhere. He also loves sitting quietly beside you with a chew toy while you are working, reading or watching TV. He is at his best with open spaces and off leash, so if you have some room to roam, you will love this boy! If you would like to meet Toby, contact Vashon Island Pet Protectors at 206-567-5222. There is a \$125 adoption fee.

Go To www.vipp.org
Click on Adopt

Class Schedule for December

Dec 4th "Raising the Contemplative Child" (class size limited to eight) 1:30-5PM.
Call for location
Dec 11th "Like a Child" What does it mean we are to become like little children to understand the things of God?
Vashon Presbyterian Church 1:30- 5PM
Treat yourself to an afternoon of holiday meaningfulness!

Register now 206.853.2388 or dha@lgcmin.com

Find the Loop on-line at
www.vashonloop.com.

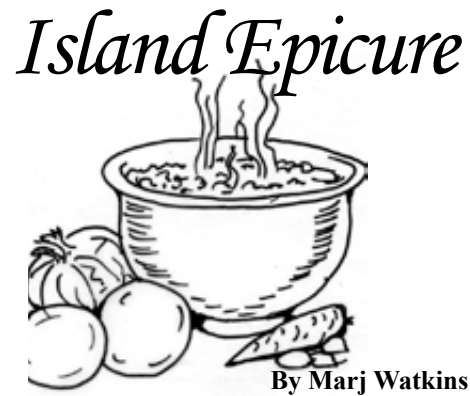
Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
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The Thanksgiving Turkey Revisited

Anything you can do with leftover chicken, you can do with leftover turkey. Need some ideas? Try these.

Quick Chicken or Turkey Casserole
Preheat oven to 375 degrees
Servings: 4 to 6
2 packages frozen mixed vegetables
1 can whole kernel corn
2 cups turkey or chicken bits and pieces
1 can Campbell’s condensed cream of chicken soup
1 ½ cups whole milk

Biscuits whipped up from biscuit mix.
In a backing dish, combine everything but the biscuits. Bake until the food is heated through, about 20 minutes. Wearing an oven mit, pull out and arrange biscuits on top. Bake until biscuits turn a lovely golden on top.
Another, somewhat safer method: Heat the combined vegetables, soup and milk in a large saucepan. Transfer to a baking dish. Top with biscuits.
Yet another method is to bake the biscuits separately and serve the casserole naked.
An easy, always delicious casserole is Tetrazzini. It dispenses with biscuit topping. It doesn’t need that starch because it’s rich with noodles or spaghetti. There’s a bit more time and preparation needed, though.

Turkey Tetrazzini
Preheat oven to 450
Servings: 4
½ package skinny spaghetti or linguine, or small shell pasta
1 tablespoons olive oil
Béchamel (white) Sauce, see below
4 green onions, or enough to make ¼ cup chopped

2 cups turkey bits
1 small can sliced mushrooms, or 3 ounces of mushrooms, chopped and sautéed in butter along with the onion
½ to 2/3 cup grated Tillamook sharp cheddar cheese
¼ cup grated Parmesan
Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and put into a 2-quart baking dish. Toss with the 1 Tablespoons olive oil so the pasta won’t stick together while you make the béchamel sauce.

Bechamel Sauce
2 Tablespoons butter
2 Tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon chicken granules or 1 chicken bouillon cube
1 cup milk
Melt the butter in a small pan. Stir in the flour. Stircook until the flour changes color. Let it cool. Either heat the milk, or be very sure the roux is cold. Stir the milk into the roux. Bring it to steaming hot. Stir in the chicken granules or bouillon. Stir in the turkey, mushrooms with their liquid, and the green onions. Stircook until sauce thickens. Stir in ½ the cheese.

Combine the pasta, sauce, and cheese in a baking dish. Sprinkle Parmesan over the top. Bake until bubbly, about 20 minutes..
You can make this ahead up to the point where you would put it into the oven. Cover the dish lightly, cool somewhat, then refrigerate it until 30 minutes before you want to start it baking. Allow a total baking time of 40 minutes. This means you need to take it out of the refrigerator at least an hour and ten minutes before dinner time.

Turkey Cacciatore
Servings: 4
2 Tablespoons olive oil
½ yellow onion, wedge-sliced
½ cup sliced celery
½ cup water
1 15 ounce can tomato sauce
¼ teaspoon garlic salt, or to taste
1 teaspoon Italian herb mixture
1 ½ cups diced cooked turkey meat
Black olives
Stir fry the onion and celery in the oil until onion is semi-transparent and glossy. Add water. Cook 3 minutes. Add remaining ingredients, dotting the sauce with black olives, no specific number.
Serve with hot cooked pasta and grated sharp cheese.
Bon appetite, and mucho gusto!



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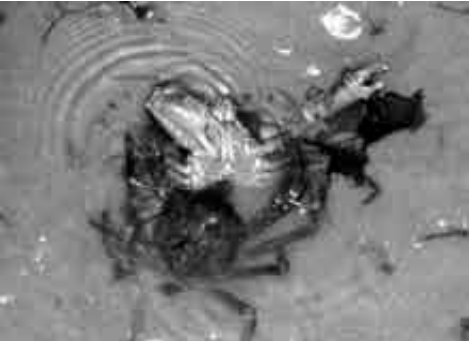
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ads@vashonloop.com or call 253-237-3228
Next Loop comes out December 9

Who Lives on Tramp Harbor Beach?

by Rayna Holtz

Tis the season for night time low tides, and for flashlight explorations of dark lively beaches. On Saturday evening, December 4, the Vashon Beach Naturalists invite you to join them from 8:00pm to 10:00 pm at the Tramp Harbor beach, starting at the old pilings between 204th St. and Ellisport.
The old pilings themselves provide habitat for critters that cling to solid objects, and may support a mosaic of barnacles, limpets, mussels, dogwinkles, plumeworms, purple and orange sea stars, and anemones. At the ones still partly submerged, there may be open anemones resembling translucent flowers, patiently awaiting their food to come to them.
Portions of the lower beach, where the sand is fine and mixed with some clay, provide a good substrate for sand dollar beds. The hundreds of dollars have small tube feet with which they can move slowly through the sand. On their undersides, their fine cilia, which look a bit like fur, move bits of detritus carried to them by the water into their mouths. Clams and cockles live under the sand, and the beds of eelgrass shelter a variety of small snails, crabs and anemones. In the shallow water we are likely to see kelp crabs, olive green or brown on top with bright red orange underneath.
Moving south along the beach, we will encounter other habitat types, especially cobbles. Periwinkles and barnacles often attach to the rounded beach rocks, and under

larger rocks there may be small shore crabs, hermit crabs, and blenny eels. We have found blue and purple porcelain crabs on sand under large rocks, flattened quarter-size crabs with long secondary antennae. Boulders are likely to hold groups of frilled dogwinkles, spiral snails about an inch long which lay eggs on big rocks in winter/spring.
The group will walk as far as the pilings of the Tramp Harbor Dock, after peering at them and the tidepools under them. This walk is intended for whole families. Everyone is encouraged to wear waterproof boots, warm hats and gloves, and an extra sweater under jackets. Bring flashlights with extra batteries, and possibly a thermos of hot chocolate. For further information contact Erin Durrett at 463-4357, or Rayna Holtz at 463-3153. This walk is co-sponsored by Vashon Park District, Vashon-Maury Island Audubon, Vashon College, and Vashon Beach Naturalists.



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Upcoming events at the Q

December 11

Kat Eggleston and Kate MacLeod play a very special holiday show.
Seating at 6:30 and 8:30. Reservations please. 206.463.5355
Please bring a donation to the Vashon Food Bank.
Non-food items too! Laundry detergent, tp, toothpaste, etc.

December 18

Chuck Roehm and Riverbend are back for another Cowboy Country Christmas
Juicy steaks, cheap whiskey, foot stomping' tunes

December 23

Join us for a Thursday night holiday dinner!
We will be closed Dec 24 and Dec 25.

Fall and winter hours at the Q
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.
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Lo^opy Laffs

Your marriage is in trouble if your wife says, 'You're only interested in one thing,' and you can't remember what it is.



My mother, a master of guilt trips, showed me a photo of herself waiting by a phone that never rings. "Mom, I call all the time," I said. "If you had an answering machine, you'd know."

Soon after, my brother installed one for her. Sure enough, the next time I called, I got her machine. The recording said, "If you are a salesperson, press one. If you're a friend, press two. If you're my daughter who never calls, press 911 because the shock will probably give me a heart attack."

What would you get if you crossed a stereo and a refrigerator?
Very cool music.

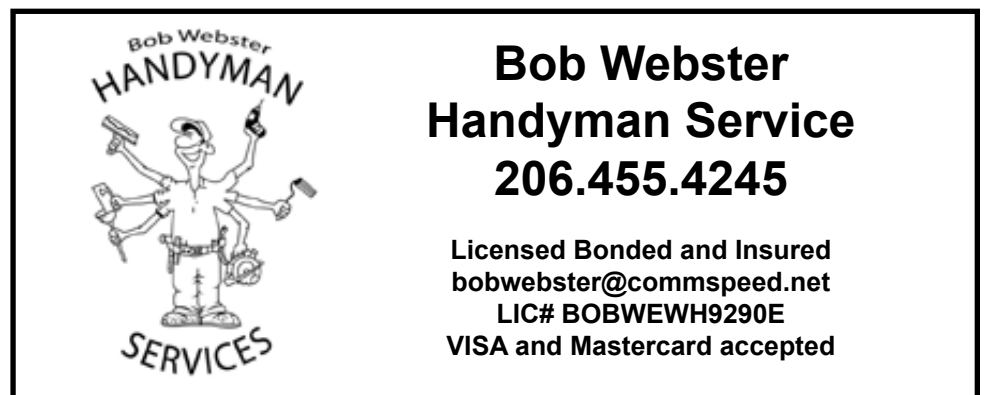
Military Humor
Officer: "Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?"
Soldier: "Sure, buddy."
Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again! Do you have change for a dollar?"
Soldier: "No, SIR!"

Sign in a Pennsylvania cemetery:
"Persons are prohibited from picking flowers
from any but their own graves."

I hate it when I just miss a call by the last ring, but when I immediately call back, it rings several times and goes into voicemail. What'd you do after I didn't answer? Drop the phone and run away?

Life is a waste of time, time is a waste of life, so if you get wasted all of the time, you'll have the time of your life.

Did you hear about the banker who was recently arrested for embezzling \$100,000,000 to pay for his daughter's college education? As the policeman, who also had a daughter in college, was leading him away in handcuffs, he said to the banker, "I have just one question for you. Where were you going to get the rest of the money?"

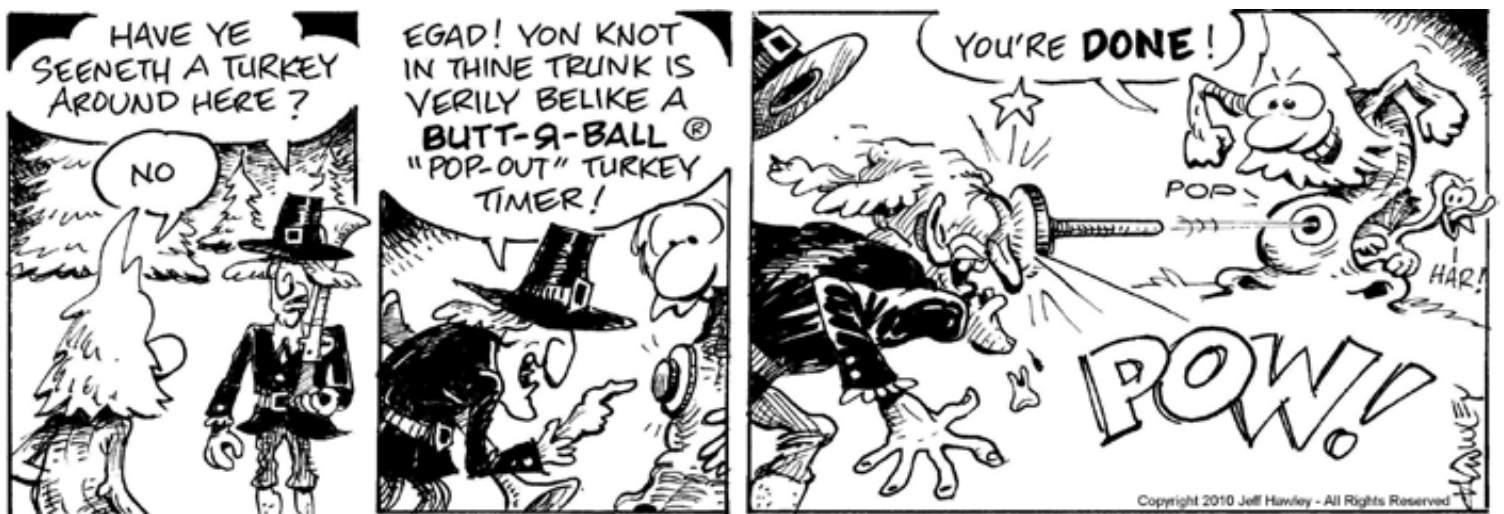


An applicant for a job with the federal government was filling out the application form. It had -- in addition to the traditional personal information, about twelve questions he had to answer. One of the questions read: "Do you favor the overthrow of the United States government by force, subversion or violence?" Thinking it was a multiple-choice question, after some pondering, he checked "Violence."

I dialed a wrong number and got the following recording: "I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

How does a chocolate bar act when it tells a joke?
It snickers.

When is it dangerous give a child iron supplements?
When he goes to a magnet school.



What's going on November 24-28
Seattle International Comedy!



Come laugh at the semi-final round of the Seattle International Comedy Competition!
November 24 at 730pm. At the Vashon Theatre.
Tickets are \$18.00 adult and \$15 student/senior, and available in-person through the box office, Brown Paper Tickets or by calling (206) 463-6845.
This all-ages venue offers limited food and drink service. For more information about the Vashon Theater, please call (206) 463-6845.
Vashon Theater
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TV Dinner

If everyone at the table could please join hands...TV Dinner would like to give thanks for jazz, blues, rock and soul music from movies and television. From Doris Day to Dundler Mifflen. From the professor to Mary Ann. TV Dinner shares this cornucopia of tasty jams complete with a side dish of roots and reggae.
This band brings plenty to the table with Dianne Krouse on sax and clarinet, Pat Reardon on guitars, Steve Meyer on stand-up bass, Andre Sapp on electric mandolin and Fletcher Andrews on drums. Over several courses, they mix sweet melodies and salty solos so everyone goes home satisfied. Try TV Dinner just once and you're sure to have a yabba dabba doo time, a dabba doo time. You'll have a gay old time. All-ages 'til 11pm, 21+ after that. Free cover!



Friday, November 26, 8:30pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

The Diggers



The Diggers (Islanders Camille Coldeen, Nick Simmons and David and Danny Salonen) began as a busking project, making its haphazard, impromptu debut at the Farmers' Market one Saturday morning in the late Spring of 2009, said Coldeen. The group's namesake is an historical English political group of agrarian, egalitarian communists who were active in 1649. Their idea was that if all the common people of England banded together to form small, self-sustaining communities based on ecologically integrated farming practices, the oppressive ruling class would either have to join them or starve. Being non-violent led to the Diggers' almost immediate downfall, since they were trounced by the enthusiastically violent ruling class Cavaliers. The members of Vashon's Diggers are not only musicians but also farmers, activists, autodidacts and enthusiasts. "Through the fun we have with our music," Coldeen said, "we experience a sense of creative and cultural solidarity within our own community. We encourage heckling, commentary and sing-a-longs."

Friday, November 26, 7:30pm, At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD
www.cafelunavashon.com

Cargo Jam

Car/go Jam is an eclectic group of island musicians playing blues, funk and jazz flavored rock, a conglomeration of styles synthesized by who they are. And when playing their music, they really get lost in the creativity of the moment. They're a wildly eclectic & lovable bunch of guys who will change your mango into a passion fruit.



Car/go Jam plays mostly original compositions along with a sprinkling of John Mayer, Eric Clapton and B.B. King covers. With two guitars and a sax working together, their dueling harmonies provide a plethora of musical inspiration and tempos that make you want to tap your foot and say "Yeah!" Their experiences cover a broad spectrum of musical tastes and backgrounds.

Saturday, November 27, 8:30pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy

Damon Buxton



Damon is a fingerstyle solo guitarist and composer working in the tradition of the Windham Hill artists. His 2007 recording "Forgiving Dreams" was produced by Will Ackerman, the Grammy-award-winning founder of Windham Hill Records. His newest release is this year's "Rotation Of Earth," now available at DamonBuxton.com, iTunes, Amadeo Music and Amazon.com. Featuring resonant, heartfelt explorations of open tunings, the fourteen songs of "Rotation" build on the "Dreams" disc. Applying what he learned from Ackerman, Buxton said, "Will taught me to pay attention to the emotion in my music, to feel it, and make it present in the performance." Composed in the early hours throughout the four seasons of 2009, the pieces on "Rotation" are recorded intimately to make the listener feel as though they're sitting in the room with the guitar. RJ Lannan in New Age Reporter said of Buxton's work, "Like a writer who speaks volumes in few words, Buxton's sparse style shouts to the rooftops that the musical voice you hear is one to be reckoned with." www.damonbuxton.com
Saturday, November 27, 7:30pm, At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD

Youth Chorus stages
A Charlie Brown Christmas

By Janice Randall



Victoria Trujillo as Lucy, Isaac Hughes as Charlie Brown and Tessa Paw as Marcy.
Photo By Janice Randall

Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang ultimately discover the true meaning of Christmas when Vashon Island Youth Chorus stages this holiday classic under direction of the venerable Marita Ericksen. They will perform Thursday, Dec. 9, in a 6 pm benefit for the Food Bank (\$5 donation). Weekend performances are Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10 and 11, 7 pm and Sunday, Dec. 12, 4 pm, at the Blue Heron Art Center.

A play within a play, Charlie Brown is discouraged by holiday commercialism. In a valiant effort to cheer him up Schulz's beloved familiar characters, with Lucy at the helm, elect Charlie Brown to direct their annual Christmas pageant and the adventure ensues. Twenty seven enthusiastic young Islanders, ages 7 to 15, will be double-cast for the popular holiday show. Charlie Brown will be played by Isaac Hughes. The roles of Lucy will be shared by Ellie Hughes and Victoria Trujillo. Both Salena Biro and Stella Gross-Schader will play Snoopy and Linus will be performed by Jack Nelson and Ethan Davis. "Six of our youngest cast members will play Woodstocks for all four shows," saysEricksen

The first half of the performance will feature seasonal two and three-part harmony choral music to include a medley of songs from the musical Grinch, Nutcracker medley, Hanukkah song, Mozart's Alleluia, a Russian song and an Italian lullaby. The grand finale will include the traditional sing-a-long.

Island adults and teens have contributed to the production including Kevin Joyce who pitched in with theatre games and choreography, vocal coaching by noted Vashon Island Choral soloist, Joe Farmer and auditions, drama coaching and general support came from Libbie Anthony. Costumes were created by Elise Ericksen and Randy Bruce will provide piano accompaniment. VIYC/ stage veteran Max Lopusznski will stage manage. Program heroes also include loyal parents, ever-present behind the scenes to help kids run lines, provide rehearsal snacks and more.

The group will also perform for First Friday open house at Café Luna and are invited to sing, in costume, with Vashon Island Chorale, the first weekend of December.

Tickets are \$6 for all children, VAA Members, seniors/\$9 general admission, available at Books by the Way, Heron's Nest and Blue Heron Art Center.

Upcoming at Luna

Salsa Dancing with Darryl Caldwell



The first 30-45 minutes will be instruction and then students are on their own to dance the night away. No previous Salsa experience necessary. No charge. Hosted by Darryl Caldwell.

Thursday, December 2, 6-9pm
At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD
www.cafelunavashon.com

First Friday Gallery Cruise Painting by Erik Hoogen

Erik Hoogen, well known on Vashon for his K-2 snowboard designs and engaging murals at Thriftway and Sporties, will be displaying one hundred portraits of musicians, such as Jerry Garcia and Bob Marley. His paintings are vibrant, beautiful and happy go lucky. Erik describes this collection as his best work yet!!

Friday, December 3, 6-9pm
At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD
www.cafelunavashon.com

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www.VashonPages.com

Masters in Miniature

By Janice Randall

Find the perfect gift at Blue Heron Gallery during December when 43 Island artists show Masters in Miniature, an exhibit that exemplifies the adage ‘good things come in small packages.’ The Gallery’s year end finale will feature works no bigger than 7 in. x 7 in. Mediums will include: painting, pottery, wood, glass, tile, sculpture, printmaking, fiber, photography and mixed media.

According to Gallery Curator Janice Mallman the public has requested the Miniature become an annual event. “We’re doing it because we’ve had such positive feedback. Artists enjoy the challenge and many art patrons have

told me this is their favorite show of the year.”

Co curator for the annual show Carol Schwennesen says, “The thing that’s most exciting is the artists bring something new and different for themselves and audiences every year. Give people the option to challenge themselves and they rise to the occasion! These tiny pieces often have an iconic feel about them, like small treasures you can carry in your pocket.”

Hear live jazz for the 6 pm, Dec. 3 opening by Richard Person, horns and Jim Hobson, piano.

Blue Heron Dancers perform Nutcracker at VHS Theater

By Janice Randall

Blue Heron Dance Company brings the holiday magic to stage with Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Ballet December 3, 4 and 5 at VHS Theater. Dance Director Christine Juarez plans to ‘shake it up a bit’ with the addition of new set pieces, thanks to set designer Tony Furr, and unexpected choreography.

While sets and choreography may offer a more contemporary edge, expect beloved characters including Clara, danced by Ballet 4 student, Ally Clevenger and the Sugar Plum Fairy danced by VHS junior Camille Kappelman. The Nutcracker Prince will be performed by Ballet 3 student Quinn McTighe.

“I always like to insert something fresh, but the music and story line remain with tradition,” says Juarez.

A performance with pre-school audiences in mind will be performed at 3:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3. Tickets are only \$5 for the narrated, interactive performance and will offer age appropriate vocabulary. Please contact Christine Juarez if your pre-school is interested in attending. Additional performances are 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, 1 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5. Saturday evening’s performances includes pre-show live music at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/\$13 and available at Blue Heron, Heron’s Nest, Books by



Ally Clevenger as Clare and Camille Kappelman (shadow dancer).

Photo By Mike Urban

the Way, Vashon Book Shop, Thriftway, brownpapertickets.com or by phone: 463.5131.

Holiday stocking stuffers will be available in the lobby; all proceeds benefit VAA dance program. Student made crafts and Nutcracker novelties will also be available for fun gifts.

VASHON ISLAND

Art Studio Tour

HOLIDAY 2010

DECEMBER 4-5 & 11-12

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10 AM TO 4 PM

VashonIslandArtStudioTour.com

Talented Ducks in the Water

Waterworks Studio - 16

The “pond” of artists featured at Waterworks Studio for the Holiday Art Studio Tour grows each year and 2010 is no exception with the debuts of textile artist Susan Bates and painter Stephanie Harlan who splash into the pond with some pretty heavy credentials and incredible art. Starting with the traditional Preview Party on December 1 from 6:00 pm on and going through December 4-5 and 11-12 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day, Waterworks is honored to exhibit the work of 16 artists offering an array of wares ranging from fine art and photography to exquisite jewelry, one of a kind apparel, silky soaps, toys, fragrant lavender products and much, much more. And each new artist added to the Waterworks ponds brings with him or her wealth of talent and experience.

Bates, a resident of Vashon for ten years, first came across a much bigger big pond from England where she studied at the London Art Institute. Wasting no time, she trained at the Pilchuck Glass School and Pratt Fine Arts Center before establishing herself as a glass artist and jewelry maker. In recent years Bates has turned her eyes and hands to the ancient art of felt-making, studying with Faith Hagenhofer in Oregon and Sharon Costello in New York, and she now takes inspiration from Vashon’s colors and textures. Using traditional hand felting techniques with New Zealand and Merino wool, Bates laminates silk, patterned fabric, beads and other materials to create her unique and contemporary scarves and purses. The pieces Bates has created for Waterworks are luscious with drop-dead stunning fabrics, colors and textures that invite the viewer to reach out, touch and put them on.

Moving to Vashon in 1987, painter Stephanie Harlan already had collected a pretty impressive arts background. With a BFA in painting, drawing and sculpture from the University of Michigan College of Art and Design, she went on to obtain an MFA from prestigious Cranbrook Academy of Art where she majored in lithography and photography. Harlan



then took her skills north to Alaska where she captured images of sled dogs in black and white film while working at the University of Alaska Museum. After a hiatus from art to raise her family, Harlan has re-engaged in art full throttle, studying with Rebecca Strong and at the Gage Academy of Art. Harlan credits her re-entry into art to Darsie Beck’s Artist’s Way course that she took in 2006, saying that “Darsie’s Artist’s Way course was the key to my re-entering the world of creating art”. For Waterworks, Harlan has truly flexed her artistic muscles for the Waterworks Studio Tour show, creating still lifes and sketches that are warm, vibrant and pulsing with energy.

Bates and Harlan join the Waterworks Studio Tour group which boasts painters Darsie Beck, Bob Horsely and Mike Maher, printmaker Nancy Wing, photographers Ray Pfortner and Christine Beck, paper and banner artist Lindsay Aickin, New York Times featured broom and soap maker Vicki Browne, textile artists Dana Illo and Jordan Beck, potter Heidi Richards, jewelers Kate Rutherford and Ginny Cizek, and the Lavender Sisters for everything lavender. From stocking stuffers to treasures of a lifetime, Waterworks has it all in a wide range of affordable prices.

For all of the artists at Waterworks, the Holiday Art Studio Tour and every exciting studio participating in it embody the magic and mystic that is the community of Vashon- a time to renew friendships, sit around holiday fires, sip refreshments, stroll amongst inspiring artworks and begin the holiday season with a creative spirit. Waterworks is located at 7012 SW 240th Street on Maury Island. For more information and directions, go to www.waterworksonvashon.com or call 206/463-5633. To learn more about all of the wonderful studios on the Tour, go to www.vashonislandartstudiotour.com/Holiday2010/.



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