



VASHON

THE LOOP

Vol. 7, #25

TO INFORM AND AMUSE -- TO PROVOKE THINKING AND ACTIVISM

December 9, 2010

Dance For The Dental Van

Most of us know that Dental Insurance can be hard to obtain and, when one does have it, it often doesn't cover everything a person needs. And, of course, two years into a recession, even more people than normal are without insurance.

This is where Medical Teams International comes into play with their four fabulous Dental Vans that offer all the equipment and expertise of a regular dental office PLUS 4 wheels! The Vashon Dental Van comes to the island once (1x) a month, and many islanders have benefited from this wonderful service AT NO CHARGE!

However, as March Twisdale discovered a few months ago, recessions effect everyone - including charitable services. When she heard that the Dental Van was struggling economically, her first thought was: "Wow! I'm so grateful for our family's dental insurance, and I would love to help support the Vashon



Dental Van!" BUT, as the recession has also hit March Twisdale's family, she found that she couldn't just write them a check...so, what could she do?

A couple weeks later, while brainstorming with her husband, it occurred to them! "How about a Dance Class to raise money for the Dental Van?!"

March Twisdale has taught ballroom dancing on the island since 2006, and she normally takes January off from classes - this year, she's working in January, and she's doing it all for the Dental Van and islanders that need it!

You may see the bright orange signs that one of her dance students, Kristin Tkoch, created for the Dental Van Fundraiser posted around town - or maybe you'll see the posting on VashonAll or hear about it from a friend. *Continued on Page 11*



Not your Mama's Spelling Bee



2009 First Place team, The Compassionate Spellers from VCCC, Beth Schultz, Julea Gardener, and Susan Tuller.

The fifth annual "Spell It!" on Sunday, January 30 from 3-6 pm promises to be yet another great time had by all. The Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation raises money with this event for graduating Vashon High School seniors to further their education after high school. To qualify for a scholarship award each student must submit a scholarship notebook. Interest rates are down and the cost of education is up so join the fun and contribute to a wonderful community tradition. Come and be entertained as a speller

or a spectator, overcome your spelling phobias, vote on the costumes and enjoy the savory treats and sweets. This is an equal opportunity, cross-generational, fun for all ages event.

Cheryl Pruett has participated for the last four years as a spelling bee contestant and says, "It's a wonderful opportunity to make a public fool of yourself and have fun doing it for this good cause."

New this year, teams can now have one, two or three members. The entry fee for spelling participants is \$50/ *Continued on Page 9*

Only On Vashon

Twentieth in a series

A Break in The Gray

By Peter Bond



There were only a few balmy nights last summer, the kind that get under your skin, the kind that, if you're young or young at heart, can seduce you to stay up all night on the beach next to a fire holding the one you are falling in love with.

The beach is where Sarah was one evening during that single week in July when the clouds dispersed and the temperature rose and a boy just appeared out of nowhere (on a kayak) while she was walking her pup outside her parents' beach cabin.

If you've never felt that electric magic, or even if you have, I assure you it is magnified greatly by tender age, silky air, chance occurrence. Sarah and this boy, both twenty-one, were immediately drawn to each other and spent several days in a bubble of intense desire and hope.

He stepped out of the kayak that first evening and smiled at her so disarmingly that she let go of the leash and the dog bounded off, giving them a reason to take a moonlit walk/search together which culminated in their first bonfire and a very simple but powerful kiss.

Then he was off across the channel to wherever he was staying, mooning her on the way out in reference to that full moon, which, as Sarah tells it, gave his face (and butt) an ethereal glow.

Their next meeting, in similar fashion, picked up where they left off, and so went the next few days. He'd arrive by kayak, they'd walk, picnic, light a fire, talk and laugh for hours, and make out (and eventually make love).

His name was Will and he attended the University of Puget Sound, he was from Connecticut and was studying to be Psychologist, but that's pretty much all of the surface details he gave away to her.

Sarah gave away somewhat more; she was helping her family run their Vacation rental B and B on the south end of the island. It was high summer season so there were plenty of anecdotes from the inn, but anyway, there were few gaping holes in the conversation with this couple. They were falling in love.

He said he was staying at one of the waterfront campgrounds and she had no reason to question that. He used a prepaid cell phone that was out of minutes so they never talked outside of meeting. His only mode of transport was the kayak so their entire world that week was that stretch of beach. He came every night for six nights.

On the seventh evening he didn't come.

So jolting was this sudden switch from the new routine, so deep the emotions between them, Sarah knew his not showing up was nothing short of disaster, if not the end of it all-together. Her intuition seemed confirmed when another evening, and then another, passed without him. The grey sky had even returned, it was all very ominous.

By the third day, in a kind-of-numbness, and with plenty of tears, she convinced her *Continued on Page 10*

THE DORSAL SPIN: Kéet Shuká

By Orca Annie Stateler, VHP Coordinator

As he does every holiday season, Tlingit artist Odin Lonning, www.OdinLonning.com, is selling artwork to benefit the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) and Wolftown's wildlife rehab. Visit his table and watch him demonstrate Coastal Native designing at the Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie, Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, during the Roasterie's regular hours.

Several pieces will remain on display there this month, including a sweet 14-inch "Lovebirds" drum and a new multi-tribal carving, "Kéet/Sgana/Kakawin," the Tlingit, Haida and Nuuchah-nulth words for "Killer Whale." This week's photo shows Odin's multi-tribal whale with, appropriately, a wolf in the body.

In addition to works on hand, Odin enjoys creating custom, personalized pieces guided by his clients' specific preferences. He offers the option to buy art on layaway and make payments on it. Call 463-9041 for more information.

Southern Resident orcas have not returned to Island waters since November 16. VHP reports since then include Dall's porpoises, thermoregulating sea lions drifting in the currents with their flippers extended skyward, and what sounds like a single large whale, likely a Gray, foraging in Dalco Pass on December 5. We received this report after the exotic Bryde's (Broo-dah's) whale died in Totten Inlet in the South Sound. Visit www.cascadiaresearch.org to learn more



"Kéet/Sgana/Kakawin" carving, © Odin Lonning, 2010.

about this rare and tragic stranding.

On these short winter days, a gang of four slinky stinkers is endlessly entertaining, cavorting around our 'hood. In this case, "stinkers" is an apt descriptor as well as a term of endearment for our river otters. The little stinkers are exceedingly cute as they squeak and frolic in the water and on the beach. We marvel at their skill in catching flounders and defending their hard-won meals from opportunistic Bald Eagles. The odiferous piles of otter scat are not so marvelous.

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.

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.

An Intimate Christmas Renaissance and Baroque

An Intimate Christmas: Renaissance and Baroque.
Linda Tsatsanis ~ soprano
Jeffrey Cohan ~ baroque flute
John Lenti ~ lute

Sunday, December 12 at 6:00 PM
Vashon United Methodist Church
17928 Vashon Highway SW • (206) 463-9804
Suggested donation (a free-will offering towards expenses): \$15
Youth 18 and under free!
www.concertspirituel.org - additional information
www.brownpapertickets.com - tickets

Vashon’s Yellow Pages on line.
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

Quartermaster Press Seeks New Members

Vashon Island’s well-respected Quartermaster Press is expanding and inviting additional artist members.
Founded 16 years ago by Island print artists Valerie Willson, Bonnie Wilkins, Ilse Reimnitz, Jill Stenn and others, the Quartermaster Press is a cooperative studio where artists can work in the printmaking medium. Current members recently held a group show at the Blue Heron Gallery. The group also sponsors classes for the public. Upcoming is a basic monoprinting class by Valerie Willson in January.
For more information about becoming a member, please contact Lisa Guy orangetabbyvilla@gmail.com or Carla Okigwe cokigwe@comcast.net.

The Vashon Loop
Writers: Kathy Abascal, Deborah Anderson, Marie Browne, MEarth, Eric Francis, Troy Kindred, Melissa McCann, Orca Annie, Kevin Pottinger, Rex Morris, Ed Swan, Mary Litchfield Tuel, Marj Watkins, Peter Bond.
Original art, comics, cartoons: DeeBee, Ed Frohning, Rick Tuel, Jeff Hawley, Alex Soriano. Steve Krueger
Ad sales and design: Steven Allen
Phone 253-237-3228
Email: ads@vashonloop.com
Editor: Steven Allen
Email: ads@vashonloop.com
Publishers: Marie Browne and Troy Kindred
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
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Green Party’s monthly meeting

The Vashon-Maury Island Green Party’s monthly meeting (second Tuesday of each month) will be at Joy Goldstein’s home. Greens, Democrats, Independents, and other interested progressives always welcome! DATE: Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 to 9:00 PM LOCATION: 10329 SW Bank Road, Vashon DIRECTIONS: From Vashon center, go west on SW Bank Road 0.3 miles. Joy’s home is on the south side. Park along Bank Road. Facilitator: Melvin Mackey Discussion issues: 1) \$Bring the Billion\$ Home Campaign. 2) VMIGP Tri-fold brochure. 3) Reports on 2010 Pacific Northwest Regional Green Gathering, Healthcare for All Washington, and Women in Black Silent Weekly Vigil. 4) Vashon Governance. Questions: Melvin Mackey, Secretary, (206) 463-3468

Quartermaster Harbor Closed to Butter Clam Harvesting

Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) has been detected at levels of concern in butter clam samples collected from beaches in south King County and Quartermaster Harbor on Vashon Island. As a result, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has closed beaches from Three Tree Point in Burien to the Pierce County line and Quartermaster Harbor to the recreational harvest of butter clams.
Public Health – Seattle & King County is posting advisory signs at south King County beaches and Quartermaster Harbor warning people to not collect butter clams from these areas. Other species of mollusks, crabs and shrimp are not included in the closure.
Commercial beaches are sampled separately and commercial products should be safe to eat.
PSP poisoning can be life-threatening and is caused by eating shellfish containing a potent neurotoxin. A naturally occurring marine organism produces the toxin. The toxin is not destroyed by cooking or freezing.
A person cannot determine if PSP toxin is present by visual inspection of the water or shellfish. For this reason, the term “red tide” is misleading and inaccurate. PSP can only be detected by laboratory testing.
Recreational shellfish harvesting can be closed due to rising levels of PSP at any time. Therefore, harvesters are advised to call the DOH Biotoxin Hotline at 1-800-562-5632 or visit the Biotoxin Website http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm before harvesting shellfish anywhere in Puget Sound.

Book Review Codex Benthos Cecil Benthos, PhD.

Holiday season brings out the very best of the previous years written words, i.e. the coffee table book of famous restaurants and their recipes which are usually given in alien script. This year is no exception with the unusually humorous pocket sized stocking stuffer, “Codex Benthos” written by a reclusive but noisy local author, Dr. Cecil Benthos.
I think the name Benthos is an anagram for UFO but more digging will have to be done on this subject. This book about Vashon, on the other hand, holds story after story of lost mines, diamonds, frogs, aliens,

Community Drumming

Friday, December 10, 7-9 PM
Vashon Intuitive Arts
Everyone is welcome! All ages.
Please join in the drumming and singing with Buffalo Heart, our big community drum, on Friday, December 10, 7-9 PM at Vashon Intuitive Arts. This month, we will drum four rounds honoring fire, water, earth and air. Time allowing, we will invite individuals to explore personal healing with the drum medicine. Bring your own drums and rattles and join us. This is a free event; donations help with facility rental. Sponsored by Woman’s Way Red Lodge, a non-profit dedicated to promoting balance and wholeness by enlivening the sacred feminine in our communities, Vashon Drum Circle meets every 2nd Friday at Vashon Intuitive Arts.

Water District 19 Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting which is scheduled for December 14th, 2010 here at the district office at 4:30 pm. Agenda to follow on or before the 10th of December.
Water District 19
17630 100th Ave SW
Vashon Island, WA 98070
206-463-9007

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

Deer Processing Demonstration

The Food Security Working Group invites you to attend a Deer Processing Demonstration. Vashon Island, as we all know, holds a bountiful population of deer (How much of your garden/flowers/orchard did they eat this year?).
Perhaps you have thought of harvesting a deer to supplement your family’s food supply, but did not know what to do with it. Or, perhaps you thought of using deer as a means of food security during times of emergency, but were uncertain how to process it.
Come and learn hands on how to process a deer. Ask questions, share experiences, and learn from each other.
When: Sat., Dec. 11, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
9:00 – 10:00 = Video on Field Dressing,
10:00 – 12:00 = hands on processing
Where: 9330 SW 204th St. (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints parking lot)
Bring/ wear: Clothing to weather the chill (we will have a large canopy set up), Sharp knife (if you desire hands on...otherwise, you are welcome to watch)
Cost: Free!
Please contact Gene Kuhns (206) 408-7188 if you may be able to bring a deer for processing, or if you have any questions.

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Welcome Vashon SAVE THE DATE! February 5th 2011

A group of islanders, representing a wide variety of organizations and interests, have started an action group called Welcome Vashon! This group is inviting all islanders-individuals or groups-that have an interest in continuing to make Vashon a welcoming community for everyone, to come to a free breakfast at the “O” space on February 5. There will be a general discussion of welcoming, and then an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and form action groups. Action items already mentioned include making workplaces and community organizations more welcoming, activities in schools to increase inclusion and diversity of opinion, outreach in faith communities, welcome signs at the ferry-docks, and tying welcoming to the sustainability activities currently underway on the island. Keep posted for more information in the Vashon Loop after the first of the year. If you have any questions you can contact Dan Kaufman at 408.7197 or drdankaufman@comcast.net.

Fruitcake Challenge Winners

The Heritage Association announces Peoples Choice winners in its December 4, 2010, Fruitcake Challenge
According to local tasters, the winner in the dark fruitcake category is Lisa Devereau, who along with Rhea Harvey and Linda Hamilton entered their great-grandmother’s recipe for Joy’s Miracle Fruit Cake.
Peoples choice in the white or light fruitcake is Judith Lawrence with her Betty MacDonald Farm Fruitcake. Judith uses figs, hazelnuts and honey from the Farm to truly localize her cake.
Kathleen Farner’s Aunt Breezy’s Gluten Free Lighter Than Air Fruitcake was too light to cut, and so had no tasters.
Other entrants included Rebecca Wittman’s Brazil Nut Cake; Peter Serko’s Fruitcake Haters Fruitcake; Barbara Garrison’s Fruitcake; Laura Weston’s Laurel’s Christmas Fruitcake (gluten free); Bob Blomgren’s White Fruit Cake; Susan Hedrick’s Tortone, Aloha Hawaiian Fruitcake and Fruitcake in Grapefruit Shells; Laurie Tucker’s Dried Fruit Fruitcake; Rebecca Drewes’ Grandma’s Fruit Cake; and Ellen Carleton’s Dark Fruitcake.

Next Edition
of The Loop
Comes out
Thursday,
December 23

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, December 17



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

206.463.5355

info@quartermasterinn.com

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

Fireside Hearth Shoppe Back With A New Stove

After a year off Roger and Bridget Lehet have re-opened Fireside Hearth shoppe in the same location for what is forecasted to be the worst winter since 1959. Weather forecasters have unanimously forecasted severe windstorms, heavy rains and lots of snow. Homeowners are strongly urged to prepare for lengthy power outages. “we have the equipment, fuel, and know how to keep people and their homes safe and warm” says Lehet.

During their year off the Lehet’s have invented and patented a wood stove of their own. This stove promises unprecedented performance and fuel economy from a much smaller design. “This unit can safely fit in much smaller areas such as boats, campers, and bedrooms” says Lehet. “It also will burn up to eight hours on one presto log, or twelve hours on one load of standard charcoal”.

Using his twenty six years of experience Lehet focused on reducing fuel consumption as well as emissions with his own design. The Lehets hope to see employment opportunities here on Vashon in the near future.” I want to provide jobs on the Island during this time of economic crises” says Lehet. “The idea of producing this product on foreign soil is of very little interest in a time of high unemployment for Americans”

With world class wood, gas and pellet heaters, along with 26 years of fail safe installations and an endless supply of presto logs, Fireside can assure those acting before hard weather strikes the peace of mind they need. “We also have the ability to drastically



Lehet’s fuel economy Stove

cut costs on keeping the home warm” says Lehet. “many of our packages pay for themselves in one to two heating seasons while offering cozy heat during power outages.

Firesides presto logs utilize recycled sawdust from a local mill saving our natural resources. “I hate seeing our forests shrinking while our landfills grow”.

For the next month Fireside will discount 20% off all maintenance services. All biomass stoves are qualified for up to \$1500.00 tax credit until December 31 2010. And the shop will be doing monthly safety seminars free to the public, call to schedule.

Shoppe hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00am to 6:00pm thoes interested can call 206 463 3990.

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.



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

Live Entertainment Weekly

December 10, at 9pm
The Doily Brothers
w/Allison Shirk

December 11, at 8:30pm
Long Lost Trio

December 17, at 9:30pm
Clinton Fearon &
The Boogie Brown Band

December 18, at 8:30pm
In Honor of John Browne
- Open Mic

See our schedule on our Website
www.redbicyclebistro.com

Enjoy a Night Out and Benefit Vashon Community Care

On December 12th, help celebrate the Vashon Community Care’s Christmas Miracle by dining at participating restaurants following Church of Great Rain’s Holiday Show. Each will generously donate a portion of the evening’s proceeds to benefit Vashon Community Care. Our thanks to:

The Hardware Store
La Playa
The Red Bicycle
Quartermaster Inn
Spice Route

Church of Great Rain
Holiday Show
December 12th, 4 pm
Open Space for Arts and Community



Tickets available at
brownpapertickets.com,
Vashon Bookshop and
Books by the Way.

Visit <http://churchofgreatrain.com>
for more information.

Vashon Community Care enriches the individual’s
experience of aging on Vashon through creative,
collaborative, caring, community-wide services.



15333 Vashon Hwy SW
Vashon, WA 98070
206.567.4421
www.vashoncommunitycare.org

Community Feast and Solstice Celebration

Vashon Island’s First Annual Community Feast and Solstice Celebration

Come celebrate the longest night of the year and the returning of the sun with friends and family in a community winter solstice celebration and feast. Guests will participate in an artistic flow of performances, songs, fun rituals and feasting appropriate for all ages.

When: Tuesday, December 21st,
6:00 PM

Where: Sportsman’s Club - 19720
Singer Rd. SW, Vashon, WA 98070

Tickets - Tickets will be available starting in Mid- November at Books By the Way and Vashon Bookstore. We request that everyone buy tickets in advance to allow the organizers to plan for food and seating. No tickets will be available at the door on the day of the event.

- Pricing
- Adults 19 and older \$20
 - Couples (2 adults) \$35
 - Kids ages 8 – 18 \$10
 - Kids 7 and under Free

A note about pricing. This event is an all-volunteer creation and tickets are priced with the goal of only covering costs for the event. All the event’s hard working organizers and volunteers will be buying tickets as well to assure that the celebration is a success. If you would like to attend but cannot afford the full ticket prices above, please contact the ticket committee using the question/comment form below to discuss options.

Food - Volunteers will be working

the morning of the event, creating a hearty winter stew, salad, fresh baked bread and dessert. To reduce our impact on the planet, no paper plates will be provided. Please bring plates and utensils for you and your family. The easiest way is a paper/fabric bag with your name on it (in case you forget it) and a recycled plastic grocery bag or two inside to put used dishes in to take back home. A limited supply of plates and utensils will be available at the event but there will be a per-setting fee to cover the cost/time to wash them.

Cider, sodas, juices, wine and beer will be available for an additional fee at the event or bring your own.

Enjoy the joyous creation of hearty food? Please offer up your services using the Online Form. In the interest of keeping this even low impact

Dress - Solstice orient attire is encouraged! Fun, frivolous, wintery, opulent, furry, regal, plush, fairies, trolls, darkness, light – let your imagination run wild!

Keep in Touch/Volunteer to be a part of it!

The Vashon Solstice celebration is a community effort staffed entirely by volunteers dedicated to creating a magical event to celebrate the season, the community and the amazing diversity of talent we have on our island. The organizing committee (aka The Sunspots) is made up of Martha Enson, Kevin Joyce, Beth Bordner, Kebbie Bedard and Duane Bedard.

Island Life Convergence

by Peter Ray

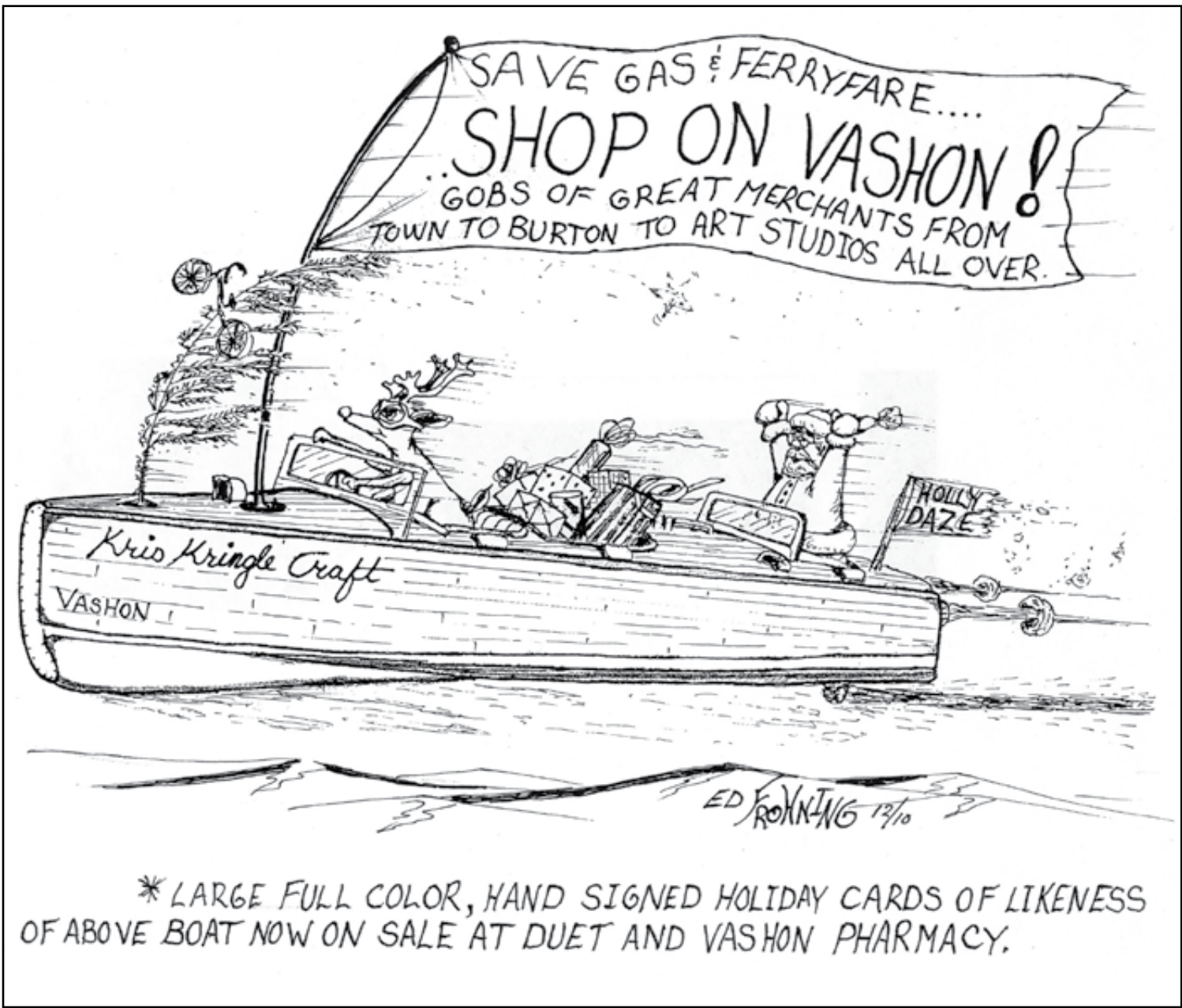
In the “set up” menu for the giant, rear projection TV we got from Freecycle about a year ago there is an item called convergence. It is there so that one can align the three internal lenses so that the picture remains clear and sharp. This point seemed moot the other day when out of the blue this big box in the corner just said pfffft and stopped being a productive member of the home entertainment community here. The problem was, we had kind of gotten used to it always being there. The dogs were no longer afraid of it. The cats found it to be an awesome military crest to lounge on and watch from, and I was no longer frightened by the prospect of confronting four-foot wide hamburgers or near life-sized football scrums a mere ten feet from the coach. All this now seemed a distant memory, accompanied by a growing concern that comes with the discovery of a dead horse in your barn. What does one do with a giant, obsolete, non-functioning piece of show time furniture? Obviously, you take it apart and poke at it.

What I found inside was a cavernous space where the light bounces around, and a city block of circuitry covered with dust. Having recently had my thirty five year-old stereo amplifier revived for under \$40 I knew that, sometimes, dead electronics just need a good cleaning. I got out the vacuum, a brush and a can of contact cleaner and had at it. I did not switch on the vacuum cleaner after dousing all exposed circuit boards with my spray can of whatever is in QD Electronic Cleaner because I did not want to send that highly flammable vapor through the canister and out the back to where the warm woodstove was. We waited for the quick dry function already built into that part of the chemical operation. After what didn't feel like an eternity, we hit the TV power button and there was more than a pulse, which is why we were screwing with the convergence adjustment. But we are ahead of the story.

Some of you may have been aware that during the recent turkey festival there were a number of gridiron battles all strung together, end to end, like one seemingly interminable war , which I guess fits these times in one of those allegorical kinds of stretches. I can mostly leave football, as opposed to Wendy who can take all that the sports channels can dish out. By the end of whatever last thrashing or upset we were on at mid-evening on Sunday night, I'd pretty much had it with pigskins. I don't remember if it was a screen pass or a lateral or just a forced fumble, but I did get control of the remote and I entered the Wasteland-my name for the litany of crap offered up as programming on cable. After running the high numbers I went low and to my surprise, there it was- the Wizard of Oz.

Back in the day, before Big Gulp amusement flooded the fields with all everything, all the time, we had to wait for things like the Wizard of Oz to be unlocked from the vaults for a once-a-year holiday screening. Before that, for the longest time- at least it seemed long- I only saw the Oz gang (and everything else) on our Philco home entertainment enclosure, which had a turntable under the lift-up wood top, a radio below, and a semi oval screen in the middle. I never understood the full meaning of the horse of a different color joke until I finally entered the Emerald City while watching on a color TV in college. So imagine how I felt when I pushed the remote button here at home and there were Dorothy and the Munchkins singing about a dead witch, and the Munchkins were nearly life-sized just a few feet in front of me. And then, there was that bird- I never saw that before.

It actually was the thought that we had had a color TV at home before that, but that I didn't remember ever seeing a color version on it previously, that got me looking for the existence of an all black and white print of the Wizard of Oz in the pages of the internets. This, as we all



Wake Up Dorothy- courtesy MGM

know, can be dangerous. I didn't find that, but what I found out about the bird was that MGM had wanted a more exotic look to the film, so they rented a bunch of large fowl and let them run wild on the set. This somehow led to the rampant but unproven rumor that what looks like a Munchkin hanging him/herself in the woods at the back of one scene was actually a crane flapping its wings. And then there was the analysis by high school teacher Henry Littlefield in 1964 of L. Frank Baum's original book, the Wonderful Wizard of Oz. Here he makes the very plausible case that the story is a well crafted allegory about late nineteenth century politics. Dorothy represents the naïve and innocent American people, and the Yellow Brick Road was the gold standard for US currency. Dorothy's slippers were silver in the book, representing Baum's opting for the silver standard. The Scarecrow represents the Midwest farmers. The Tin Woodman is the eastern factory workers stuck in place after the depression of 1893. Littlefield claims William Jennings Bryan is the Cowardly Lion. I particularly like his take on the Wicked Witch of the West, who is supposed to represent the real, wild west, and her demise comes about because "plain water brings an end to malign Nature in the west...freeing the land for farming." There's more but we've run out of room, and just when I was going to connect the dots on more convergent lines.

Make a date with Vashon!
www.VashonCalendar.org

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Reasons of the Season

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



The encroachments of the usual stressors of the forthcoming dark season are upon us. As the ritualistic goings on slowly lull us into justifying our semi conscious actions, soon we will be left with a new year to ponder how we came to be standing in a shadow much greater than we remember.

What?
Let me explain.
The darkest season brings with it opportunities to overfill the gullet along with various reasons to sew up loose ends and seal deals before the competition wins the favor of potential business. Longer nights and shorter days affect our already disintegrating opportunities to move our bodies adequately. Add up the factors and the result is the following equation:

Overeating + Stress + Less Movement = Fat and Miserable

If you choose to go down the road often traveled, here’s what you should include on your gift list:

- Pants with girth measurement equal or greater than inseam
- Prescription from doctor for one or more statin drugs
- Self-loathing mirror
- Latest Ab-Blaster gadget
- Treadmill complete with clothes hangers
- Boxed set of excuses for everyday of the month

Or...
How about this:
Figure out why you keep making the same choices year in and out that make investing in a pair of shoes with Velcro ties seem more appealing than the thought of the effort it takes with traditional string ties. By the way, your legs aren’t getting longer.

Here’s the thing...you need will power, determination and motivation. Right?

Wrong. Reasoning with yourself about your choices is a step in the right direction but if that’s all it took, we’d all be in fabulous shape with excellent eating habits. And...we’re not.

So what gives?
Habit, that’s what gives. We create habits so we can put certain aspects of our life on auto pilot to make room to think and do the things that require more thought and attention. After all, how much effort and thought does it take to fill the mouth, chew and swallow? Not much which is why we eat unconsciously and too much of the wrong stuff for our current energy requirements.

Ever wonder why the alphabet rhymes? Makes learning the letters of

the English language easier. Creating a learning experience via game play gives children the motive to learn new skills. Learning or relearning a task is easier when you have motive(s) and can connect those motives to actions that create habits therefore results.

Old formula:
Motivation + Action = Results
This formula is flawed because motivation cannot be created without seeing results.

New Formula:
Motives + Actionable Tasks = Habit Creation

Know why you choose to make change...and it better be for substantial reasons. Take small, easy to accomplish steps that eventually turn into habit.

Habit Creation + Results = Motivation

Once the habits are created results follow. Realizing results produces motivation to keep repeating tasks.

Motivation2 + Results2 = Lifelong Success

Wash, rinse, repeat.
Without meaningful motives and easy-to-understand, doable tasks, you are essentially flying by the seat of your pants. Nothing crushes the Will and Ego more than attempting change, which is uncomfortable, and not seeing a return for the investment.

Start by writing down the roots of your motives then write out your grocery list and finally schedule in time to move your body each week. Create habits by following through and then expand your lists. Once the picture is clear, action takes shape and finally you’re able to follow through.

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We’ve Got
a Lot of
Kids
by Kevin Pottinger
Business-Casual

Our six-year old twins and I saw Santa yesterday, inSubway, fully suited up, fully jolly, chortling and chuckling, ordering an Oven Roasted Chicken on whole wheat: foot-long.

He had apparently just finished his shift across the street at Santa’s Cottage, but when he saw the twins standing slack-jawed in line with me, he clumped over in heavy black GI boots, his trademark bowl-full-of-jelly belly heaving and swaying under his ermine-trimmed red suit, white beard twitching with practiced glee.

He gave me a grin and bent over to wag a white-gloved finger in our daughter Gracie’s face, booming in an authentically jolly voice, “These kids get handsomer every day! And dearie, what would you like for Christmas this year?” Gracie squirmed, overwhelmed, trying to hide behind my legs, her entire visual field commandeered by furry red suit “A DS.” she stammered.

Santa straightened up, lacing both hands across his belly as if to keep it from exploding with apoplectic mirth as he hooted “A DX! How about an XYZ, or an MOP?” By then Gracie was trying unsuccessfully to hide herself entirely in one of my back pockets.

Santa turned to Alec: “How about you, son? What would you like for Christmas? Everyone on the sandwich line froze, looking at Alec. Alec said nothing, staring straight ahead, feigning interest in the Subway oven as it beeped, signaling that Santa’s foot-long was toasted.

Grabbing his sandwich, Santa shouted something jolly and waved a white-gloved hand as he made his way out the door, cracking open the driver-side door of a newer cream-colored Oldsmobile parked on the street.

Alec pensively chewed a slice of his salami, pepperoni, sausage and black olive pizza as he watched Santa roar off in the Oldsmobile. “He wasn’t a real Santa,” he decided.

His twin sister dutifully took up the counterpoint. “No, Alec, that was a

December 9, ‘10

real Santa.” “No.” retorted Alec, “Not a real Santa.” They forcefully traded disagreements again.

They looked to me to see if I was going to intervene. Instead, I kicked it up a buck. “Why wasn’t he a real Santa, Alec?” I asked.

“He drives a car. Real Santas don’t drive cars.” he declared. Or eat at Subway, I thought. “Yes, they do, Alec.”, hissed his twin sister forcefully, doing her part to keep the animosity flowing.

Alec saw Santa inSubway order a foot-long and drive off in an Oldsmobile, both rather un-Santa-like behaviors. Therefore, there is probably at least one false Santa. Real Santas fly in sleighs and deliver toys down chimneys. The false Santas must be for entertainment purposes.

My wife Maria informs me that this is how it usually goes whenever the subject of Santa comes up with our twins. And because the twins were with me for the afternoon, rather than Maria, they missed the logical explanation of Santa that Maria often provides, such as why Santa drives an Oldsmobile and not a twelve-hundred pound open sleigh to Subway: because Santa only uses the sleigh for official Santa business.

I probed naively, “Do Santas only drive sleighs, Alec?” Alec was thoughtful again. “He couldn’t go up on a roof with a car, and go down the chimney with presents and stuff..” I had a mental image of a heavysset man lurching out of a still-running Subaru wagon, slipping down a snow-covered roof with his arms full of packages.

It did occur to me to tell Alec that someone had to go to the store for sugar when Mrs. Claus ran low on baking supplies, and Santa probably wouldn’t go to the trouble of hitching a dozen grouchy reindeer to an open sleigh in sub-zero cold for a five pound bag of sugar, but I have learned to proceed gingerly when explaining Santa to our children.

Maria curates the Santa codex.
Later we found out that the most convincing reason Alec had for doubting that particular Santa’s credentials was that Alec was pretty sure that he had seen him at Subway in ordinary clothes, quacking like a duck.

Maria let Alec know that Santa only wears his red suit for official Santa business, but during the work week, Santa usually dresses business-casual.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Spring Stuhlman Remembered



Spring-Willow (Cole) Stuhlman
Died at the age of 39 at her residence on Vashon Island on Saturday November 20, 2010, from a ruptured blood clot in her leg.

Spring was born on April 4, 1971, in Longmont, Colorado, to Fred Cole and Wendy Wharton.

She graduated from Fairview High School in Boulder in 1989 and attended some college classes at CU after graduation.

Employed at CFAM in Boulder Colorado for 10 years. Lived in Vashon Washington for 7 years after moving from Colorado in 2003.

Spring Married to Edward Stuhlman on June 17, 2006.

Spring is survived by her husband Ed Stuhlman, daughter Chelsea Cole, mother Wendy Wharton, father Fred Cole, step-mother Barb Richards, Brothers: David, Brandon, and JB, Sisters: Morgan and Kendall.

Cremation services by Island Funeral Service on Vashon, WA.

A college fund has been established for Chelsea Cole at Chase Bank in Vashon Island. Deposits may be made at any Chase location.

To think of Spring is to think of sunshine and warmth, not only in personality but she loved to be warm and have the sunshine hit her face (This shows how much she loved Seattle to forego so much sunshine). Her smile and warm personality drew people to her. Once Spring said “hi” to someone it would more than likely turn into a conversation and a friendship. Family and friends were extremely important to Spring.

Spring loved spending time with Chelsea and became involved in both the Vashon Island High School and the Vashon Island Club Volleyball. Spring volunteered and supported the Vashon school teams for 4 years and was involved with the Vashon Island Club Volleyball for 3 years, two years of which she coached the players.

Hockey was an integral part of Spring’s life. She played roller hockey with her friends in Colorado prior to moving to Seattle. Spring and her husband Ed routinely attended Thunderbirds games-her very first date with Ed was a rousing Thunderbirds hockey game which she treasured. This soon turned into season tickets to the Thunderbird games and a lifetime love affair with Ed.

Spring was a wonderful unique woman who was her own individual and will be missed by everyone.



Planet Waves



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

Aries (March 20-April 19)

You have seen the power of negotiation, and you've seen what happens when you disregard certain communication protocols. Yet your quest is to be a sincere person, and you may be reviled by the notion that you have to be two-faced as a means of social lubrication. Circumstances of your life, particularly of your professional life, are calling on you to be direct and to take authority. I would suggest the following: be direct with yourself first. If you know the lay of the land, and have a sense of who is playing what game, you will feel less defensive; that means you'll be more receptive to information. Second, you don't actually have to say much. One technique is to ask people what they know rather than telling them what you know. You will learn something along the way, people you're working with will have the sense that you're listening, and then you will be in a better position to have your knowledge be your point of authority. So gather your information, assemble the pieces and make sure you use your power judiciously.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)

Be aware of a tendency to think that your faith rules the world. It may rule your world, and that would be enough, though I suggest you back away from any possibility of being an evangelist. Faith teaches in silence, through actions and through the passage of time. Your mere awareness of something is an influence. The thoughts you think have potency beyond what you have ever imagined. This is particularly true for how they influence your own state of mind, emotions and sense of the future. Obsession is not certainty, though you may be riveted on a particular subject that you cannot let go of. That represents energy, and it may represent ideas, and an appropriate and useful response is to focus your mind in a creative and constructive way. Remember that you cannot control the future, but you can certainly influence it. One gift of the present moment is that you have enough experience to not make the same mistakes again, particularly in a relationship.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)

You may feel like you're in over your head with a situation that, at the moment, seems to have total power over your life. It may be a sexual obsession, it may be a fear that you have no choice but to encounter, or it may be coming to the realization that someone has tremendous influence over you. I suggest you think of the situation in terms of an agreement or a contract. This will be a way of processing your emotions through a rational filter. What have you actually agreed to? What has someone else committed to? And how does the current situation reflect these facts? You may determine that the facts and your emotional state have no apparent relationship; that your intensity is not grounded in reality. No matter how powerful someone may seem, or a situation may appear to be, the person you need to negotiate your freedom with is yourself.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have boundless energy at your disposal, and it's yours to direct toward healing, productivity or pleasure. The three have more in common than you may realize; anything that nourishes one of these concepts in truth feeds all three. We're trained to think that anything meaningful has to be done in a big way; that at any moment of decision, you must 'figure out what to do with the rest of your life'. What you do these weeks may indeed influence the rest of your life, and it may resolve something you've carried around for a long time. Yet the way that will happen is a supreme focus on the present moment. What you want is a state of wellbeing now, rather than something deferred to the future. That is nothing

more or less than being present in your experience. It's about recognizing that your whole life has led to this moment, and that this moment is the portal to your future. Stand in that doorway and feel the energy move through you and around you.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)

This weekend's New Moon in your fellow fire sign Sagittarius is designed to open up your sense of what is possible, if you apply your creativity. I suggest you let your curiosity lead the way to direct experience, rather than theory. You do not need to exert much in the way of effort, or think of this as requiring anything special; curiosity is powerful and it's inherently creative. Remember that all creative energy is connected to sexual energy. I recognize that not everyone 'agrees' with this, but for evidence I would merely point to existence itself. A little of this energy can go a long way; the small choices you make now have an extra potent ability to help you create your life, experimenting and experiencing and feeling your way through existence, I suggest you keep in mind what it is you want to create; hold a vision for yourself and the life that you want.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

Subtle adjustments you make to your emotional patterning may result in significant progress toward healing. We typically want to 'fix everything' about ourselves, without recognizing that patterns develop and evolve over time; the most meaningful part of the process is initiating them and gradually maintaining them into existence. This is particularly meaningful where improving your health and wellbeing are concerned. For you that comes down to courting an inner sense of safety. I recognize that we are under the constant influence to not feel safe. We are given reasons to feel threatened nearly all the time. It would help if you removed those external influences, so that this way you can tune into the ones in your mind: those messages are the ones you need to respond to specifically by wanting something else, something better; a safe place within your own thoughts.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)

Consider yourself on the verge of a decision, which involves whether you will embrace yourself fully; whether you will give (to yourself) or withhold (from yourself) the love that you seek. This is the question that lurks inside the drama of what we call love. Here, the phrasing is clear and the choice is simple: and it depends on no other person. I recognize this presents a kind of metaphysical problem. If 'how we feel about ourselves creates our experience of relationships', does that mean we control them? Obviously not: there are other options. When we resonate with ourselves in a way that is true or loving, we create a resonance field, and we draw or repel appropriate people. The message of the current charts is simple -- how you feel about yourself is the most significant metric of how you will experience existence. And you have reason to feel good; you've been practicing.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

Gender and sex (as in the many forms of interplay of male and female, inner and outer) are fascinating, beautiful things to explore and play with, don't you agree? There are so many shades and hues of attraction, empathy and simpatico; so many gradations of distaste and repulsion. With Venus now back in your sign after the recent retrograde phase, you have a strong emotional magnet pulling you inward toward a mysterious other within yourself. The world is rampant with drama of 'the other' being an external. It has an all-consuming quality, at the same time there are a diversity of taboos on taking that whole discussion to an inner plane.

There is a force of nature that exists within yourself, and it has some quality of being your polar opposite; in truth it is what you seek in others, that has so often been the source of so much drama -- and that aspect of you is now making itself known.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)

It's time to have full confidence in your talent. There comes a time when, after years of development, you take the leap into the truth of that notion. You know that what you create is fully worthy of existence in the universe. You are witness to its independent life beyond you, and I believe that deep down you are confident that it will support you economically. I would emphasize that these are recognitions now available on the emotional rather than the intellectual level -- things that work better when you feel them. It is one thing to know them in your mind; it's another to feel the truth in your body, something akin to balancing on a bicycle. Remember, on a bicycle you can go nearly anywhere, but not everywhere at once.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

So much of what you want seems to depend on others -- and so much of your experience the past year or two has been about learning how to depend on yourself. You might think of what you're learning as a form of autonomy. That is true, to a point; for as long as we need someone to change the oil on our car, we're not really autonomous. But what you are acquiring is sufficient independence to explore interdependence. That is different than codependency, which is an unhealthy overreliance on the other. The associations you're cultivating at this time will form the basis of community based on actual mutual interests and common ground. There is the potential for creating something far greater than the sum of the parts; human alchemy of the first order, for which you are a catalyst.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

You have plenty to celebrate. It's true that you also have your moments of fear and doubt, and I can empathize if you feel that your shadow runs a little deeper and darker than some others you know. That means your light will shine equally bright and moreover, that you are moving steadily along the path to fully integrating the many facets of who you are. But setting your spiritual psychology aside, I can tell you this. You are in a remarkable moment for making your existence known, and for influencing your community (and that may include community of interest, circle of friends or something similar). Though I'm not sure what you do with your life, I can offer you this -- you are onto something significant, and some idea that has the power to shape your world, if not the world. Speak clearly rather than loudly. Don't worry about the 'ultimate effect' of what you put out. Simply trust.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

This is a moment filled with great potential for you, in the aspect of life that some call 'career'. I prefer to use other concepts -- such as expressing your life purpose, making your way in the world, and shining in your chosen field. But let's keep cause and effect in the right order; that's the mission of any true seeker. It is who you are that is doing the expressing, making your way or shining your light. There is no 'thing' you are after, and you are existing and growing rather than careering. Existence as you are experiencing it now is a process of original invention. You are becoming something new every day and indeed moment. This is unnerving for some, who need a reference point to the past in order to feel secure. You have no need for such a pretense; this moment is offering you everything -- but it's an intense, potent and moreover rare moment. Be mindful. Be present. Be real, and gently so.

Read Eric Francis daily at www.PlanetWaves.net.

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Eventually This Gets to John Browne

by Mary Tuel

There was a column on my computer, almost ready to go. All I had to do was the final tweaking. I got up this morning, came in to finish the column, turned on the computer, and was greeted by a big red window telling me that my computer files were infected with a Trojan horse. And that, my friends, was that. My computer was frozen solid. It would not work in my house, it would not work for the mouse. I did not like it. I shut it down manually and unplugged all the peripherals. It's out in my car now, waiting to be transported to the computer hospital. One of my first thoughts was, I haven't had this much trouble since I used Macs. I started out on Apple computers because I'd heard they were superior, more user-friendly, didn't get viruses, and didn't crash as often as PCs.

Anti-virus sales people always tried to convince me to buy anti-virus programs for my Macs. I did that once. Put an anti-virus program on my Mac. The computer immediately crashed and had to be taken to the Apple computer hospital. While Macs may be more immune to virus infections, what I found was that they "corrupted." One little piece of data would mutate, and pretty soon the whole hard drive had a cascade of corrupted data and the computer would crash and have to be taken...well, you get the picture. I know that Mac users are devoted to their computers and I'm not trying to argue with anyone. I'm only saying that my Macs crashed a lot more than my PCs. In eight years of using a PC, this is the first time one has contracted a virus. Apparently anti-virus software actually functions on PCs. Except this time. Oh well. Off to the computer hospital. What am I writing this on? My Netbook, which runs on Linux, which is looking pretty good to me right now. Except all the games seem to involve penguins for some reason. Okay - there's a benefit for John Browne at the Red Bicycle Saturday, December 18. Drop by and support John & Vicki. They have given the island the benefit of their good selves for many years; let's benefit them. Whether you come or not, you can send money to the fund for John Browne at US Bank. Trivia: the first time I met John Browne was when I picked him and another guy up hitch hiking at the intersection of Haight Street and Fillmore in 1966. Final words for 2010: Merry Christmas, or Solstice, or Kwanzaa (Hannukah's already gone by), and stay warm with your loved ones, Islanders. Peace.

Don't Forget the Birds

Eared Grebes

by Ed Swan



Too many changing schedules and other matters kept me from getting out a second, revised edition of The Birds of Vashon Island this winter or last. I hope to get disciplined about writing and finish it next year. Since its name lies near the beginning of the bird list, the Eared Grebe stood out as one of the first birds needing a re-write and already received attention. This fall, many sightings keep being reported, sometimes with groups of up to ten birds. I described Eared Grebes in The Birds of Vashon Island as rare and best found in Quartermaster Harbor. Continued observations, mostly by Gary Shugart, pointed out that they should be bumped up to the next level, "uncommon" status. Rare stands for birds seen 1 to 5 times a year, uncommon not seen every day in season, fairly common 1 to 25 daily and common 25 or more daily. More observer coverage over the last five years definitely puts the Eared Grebe up to uncommon and perhaps even fairly common in some or most years.

Vashon Audubon Classes organized by Alan Huggins and their popular field trips often led by Alan Huggins and Gary Shugart increased the number of eyes interested and capable of noting an Eared Grebe and separating it from the very similar Horned. With the higher level of observations, Quartermaster Harbor, usually around Shawnee and sometimes Raab's Lagoon, continues to provide regular sightings. Because of so many birders filling time while waiting for the ferry, the north end dock adds a few sightings every year. However, Tramp Harbor, especially around the fishing pier contributes the most records every winter. Tramp Harbor makes the most reliable location in all of King County for finding Eared Grebes. On the other hand, one might find Horned Grebes readily along any saltwater stretch in King County or Puget Sound.

When asked, Dennis Paulson, Washington's most well-known ornithologist,

said this about Horned and Eared Grebe habitat preferences: "I think of Eared Grebes as pickier than Horned Grebes in their wintering habitat in Washington. Usually I see them in more protected waters, in bays rather than along exposed shores. They winter commonly on saline fresh water (e.g., Salton Sea), where certain invertebrates are abundant, but they are also very common in coastal locations in California. They are more of an invertebrate feeder, Horned Grebes more of a fish feeder, and that could dictate habitat preference. But it may be that they seem more restricted in Washington just because they are a lot less common." Most Eared and Horned Grebe sightings around the Island involve birds in winter plumage. Both birds have dark grey backs, whitish sides, white cheeks/face and black caps. It takes some skill to tell the birds apart. A dirty/dusky smear into the white cheeks from the black cap provides the best differentiating feature for an Eared Grebe. Horned Grebes possess a flat black cap that sharply contrasts with the white cheek with a clear edge. The head of the Eared Grebes often appears peaked over the eye and tends to swim with its rear, its "stern," puffed up in back like a galleon. These two differences aren't always apparent.

In spring if both species stay long enough to change into breeding plumage, differences become much easier to notice. In the rest of the world, ornithologists name the Eared Grebe the Black-necked Grebe for its black neck during the nesting season. It then also has yellow plumes over its ears, hence its name in North America. Horned Grebes possess a reddish neck and a solid yellow patch on the head from front to back under their black cap. In recent bird sightings, Joy Nelsen's view of a Peregrine Falcon heading towards Pt. Robinson tops the list. Stephanie Harlan found a female Northern Shoveler in her neighbor's pond on Robinwood Road. They rarely stray from Fisher or Mukai Ponds. 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.

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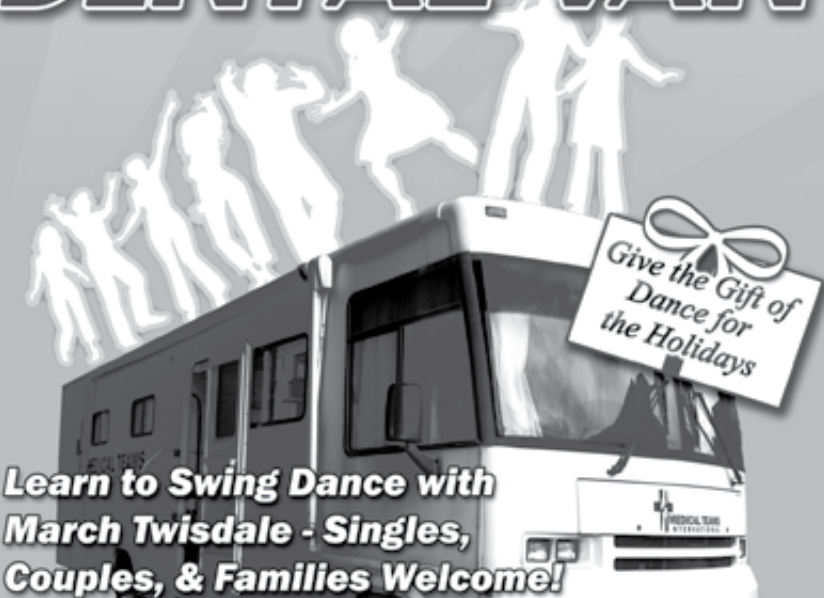
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What's Your Take ...On The "Only On Vashon" column?

By Peter Bond

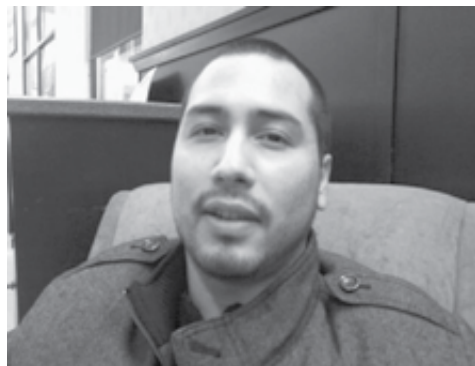
We're coming up on the one year anniversary of the Only On Vashon column, and I've been mulling over whether to retire it or fold it into my upcoming new column (a secret for now) or to continue on. I hit the streets to get the pulse of the community on this important! matter, thinking I had a pretty good idea of where most people stand. Judging from emails and calls over the year it's mostly positive but of course I do have my detractors. I'm leaning towards at least a few more episodes, because I think there's a desire.

But that's just my take. What's yours?



Lornie - Vashon

About half the time the stories really speak to me, although I always read the column all the way thru. Maybe you could do it once a month instead of every issue. The writing is very good.



Fernie- West Seattle

I'm prejudiced because I know Peter personally but the column should definitely stay, even if I thought he was a jerk (which I don't).



Gayle - Vashon

I love the column! These are stories we would never know about if you didn't write them. I say keep it going!



Rondi - Vashon

The ones I have read have been very dark and edgy, although I've been told I missed several tender pieces. But the writing is always sharp and I say go for it.

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Next Loop comes out December 23

Spelling Bee

Continued from Page 1

person. The second place winners, "The Honey Bees" (Marilyn Fuhrman, Joanna Gardiner and Teri Tipton) will pay no entry fee to "Spell It!" 2011 because they won first place in the costume competition last year.

Will "The Compassionate Spellers from VCCC" (Julea Gardener, Beth Schultz and Susan Tuller) return and be able to defend their 2010 First Place Title? Will the third place winners, "Volunteers for Decency (VD)" (Tom Langland, Todd Pearson, and Mark Van Devanter) be contenders again this year? Stay tuned, mark your calendars and gather your teams for an afternoon of spelling suspense and silliness.

Tickets are on sale now at The Vashon Book Shop. Give a ticket to the "Bee" in someone's Christmas stocking. Tickets will also be available at the door of the Vashon High School Theater on January 30. Prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. To register as a spelling participant, forms are available at The Vashon Book Shop or contact Barbara Gustafson at 206-463-1638 or via email rrgbdg@yahoo.com.

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is

Friday, Dec 17

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Positively Speaking

“Texas Faith”

By Deborah H. Anderson

It was a dark and stormy night at my house. The wind blew the waves like some crazed drum major motioning for the band members under his direction to crash into each other. They thunked the bulwark making the house shudder.

Me? I was lying on a bed at the Days Inn University in Austin Texas with the air conditioner cranked up. Fanning myself with a sheet it was demonstrating to me how weary it was. It couldn't quite cool anything. Eighty-eight degrees with eighty seven percent humidity five days in a row.

While Vashon went dark that fateful Tuesday I was having my 'tourist day' walking the gardens of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower and Butterfly preserve wishing I'd carried a water bottle from the car.

The trip was planned for months. Caity's senior recital was the previous Friday night and then we celebrated the end of a nine-year journey as she pursued the development of her singing voice.

I'd wanted to partner it with this cheap carnival cruise but early on in the planning stages had listened to the still small voice that guides me and shut down that dream. You know that cruise. The news covered how they floated without power off the coast of Mexico for days. I'm always so grateful when I obey that "thin silence" as the original Hebrew calls it.

Surreal was the word of the day that Tuesday as the emails and texts began to fly from the North as Helen, Tammy and Ken and Kate and Erik braved the elements to care for the beloved Buddy and Boris and Natasha (public Thank You). They skidded off the highway, walked down the hill and more while Caity and I were licking barbecue off our fingers at Rudy's. "Don't you think it's great it's next to a Shell station?" Caity stated delightfully as she walked me towards the restaurant with the oil cloth gingham red table coverings and the metal folding chairs adorning the long banquet tables, and the Disneyland like queue leading up to buckets of potato salad and bread pudding.

They transported Buddy to a warmer location while we put on our three D glasses to watch "Tangled". They fed the kitties while I wandered through the impressionist exhibit at the Blanton Art Museum and enjoyed the air conditioning of the Texas heritage museum as Caity



tried to get us tickets to an Imaxed "Harry Potter". The final phone call rang as we worshipped Thanksgiving morning. ("You were so lucky that was during a hymn, Mom") before we sat down to more spicy southern dishes laced with greens and pecans than I'd ever seen before.

I struggled to offer support, opinions and wisdom as I floated through this otherworldly time of celebration.

The temperature dropped forty degrees in two hours as the cold front from the Northwest descended on southern Texas. I was on my way to the airport. Time to go home.

At 12:35 AM Friday morning I returned to a dark cold powerless house. Twenty minutes later electricity surged through the wires once more.

As disorienting as the experience had been during all those communications, I realized I had swapped out a week of freezing endurance for a week of sweating off my SPF 50 hastily purchased at the local Austin Target. Bathed in sunshine and warmth, I had missed the storm.

Faith is walking in sunshine in the middle of the storm. Faith is being drenched in sunlight in a soggy dark and windy world. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. A long time ago I wrote a song called 'JOY!' The chorus goes:

"I know that God's great Goodness has carried me thus far.

I know that God's great Spirit is filling up my heart.

I know that God's great Power can light the darkest path.

I know that God is near me when I can't feel Jesus' hand." c.1991 dha

From Thanksgiving to New Year's may this season be a season of Faith for you however you celebrate.

Love
Deborah



Joanna Gardiner

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Only on Vashon

Continued from Page 1

dad to run her over to the campground in his fishing boat. But of course Will wasn't there, and nobody there knew who she was talking about. So that was that.

August had arrived and the inn was in high gear, so Sarah buried herself in work. Normally congenial and friendly with the guests, she distanced herself by keeping her head buried in cleaning toilets or changing sheets. Even the empathetic looks from the new couple staying in the master suite couldn't get her to come out of her grief/shell. But she did notice they had similar sad and weary expressions whenever she saw them in the dining area or hallways.

They were a last minute booking, from back east somewhere, a handsome couple. They'd never been to the island before but a family member had apparently loved it, so they'd decided to check it out. Most days they went into Tacoma on the ferry to visit somebody at St Joseph's hospital. Not much had been divulged, but Sarah's mother discovered their son was in a coma after suffering a brain aneurysm.

A week passed and the couple left. The father flew back home for work and the mother moved into a studio provided by the hospital to wait out her son's coma. They had bonded somewhat with Sarah's mother so there was a lot of hugging and tears and well- wishing and assurances they would be back.

But nobody anticipated it would be so soon, and, unfortunately, for the sad occasion of their son's death. Not three weeks later the couple arrived again to spend a few days preparing for and attending their son's funeral. This time there was less hesitance for all involved to share the grief. Now the couple seemed practically family and joined Sarah's parents in the daily goings-on of the inn. The mother in particular felt that moving about, keeping busy, helping with the inn chores and chatting up the other guests, helped with her hurt.

Sarah was able to partially climb out of her own depression in reverence to the greater tragedy these other (kind) people were experiencing.

Still, nobody made the connection during the entire period. Even when the couple loosened up a bit one evening over dinner and wine, to tell a short-version of their son's affliction, the bells did not go off. Unbelievably Sarah and her father had left that dinner early, before the part of the story was explained where a fisherman had found the boy. He was screaming for help from his beached kayak, in such agony he was going mad. Within minutes the man had scooped him up and raced off to the Tacoma Yacht Club dock, where an ambulance was waiting.

He fell into the coma that very trip, and stayed there, even after the operation that night.

The other astounding part, discovered later, was that he'd emailed his mother just the day before, from a fellow camper's I-phone, to say that he was falling in love with a beautiful girl on beautiful Vashon Island.

Sometimes grief is such a solid wall of pain it might as well be a brick wall, for all that it allows thru, which is nothing. Not light, not air, not sound.

On the morning of the funeral, held at the University chapel, Sarah left them alone and took a walk on the beach, doing some of her own reflecting on the summer's events. She'd come to a sort-of peace with the disappearance, although she wondered whether she was kidding herself, or using a human survival mechanism, because the thing that bothered her most was the not knowing.

After the walk she went into the parents' room to clean for the first time during their stay. They'd requested no service until that point, wanting privacy in their space, so Sarah had yet to see the photo. It was a beautiful framed photo of Will that was sitting on their bedside table. He was captured in his kayak, beaming his million-watt smile.

Sarah threw up her breakfast and fell to the floor.

But within minutes, and through tears that were oddly almost of relief, she pulled herself together, darted into her room to dress appropriately, and flew out the door to the ferry dock. After a short nail-biting wait for the next boat, and the quick trip, she found herself in the foyer of the campus church amid dozens of students and others somberly filing into pews.

Towards the front she could see her parents with Will's parents, preparing to sit. Will's mother looked up and caught Sarah's eyes and in that instant it was all connected. The mother began to cry and held out her arms and Sarah went to her and they held each other tight.

The funeral then told her much about this funny sweet guy she'd loved so briefly, and afterwards she met several of his friends and exchanged phone numbers and it was deeply moving.

But there had never been a more profound moment in her life than when Will's mom gave her the urn the following evening, the first true beautiful summer evening since Will had died (or so it seemed to Sarah). She was to scatter the ashes along the stretch of beach where Will had spent his final week, his happiest week, with her.

Both sets of parents stood well back along the berm while Sarah and her pup repeated their walk of that first night. When they came to the place where she had dropped the leash as she first glimpsed Will, she dropped it again.

The pup took off, and so did Will, with the wind.

peter@vashonloop.com

Class Schedule for December

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


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Island Epicure



By Marj Watkins

Emergency Food:
Eating well through
snow, ice & dark

Winter stuck its toe in the door a couple of weeks ago with that power outage, snow, and drastic windstorm that knocked down big branches, trees and utility poles. Lots of us were briefly or not so briefly in the cold and dark. Those with gas cook stoves, fireplaces, and water heaters got by okay, unless their water depended on a pump to bring it from a well.

How did you cope? How will you get through the rest of this winter’s storms? Vashon Be Prepared urged all of us last fall to stock up on food, water, and anything else we’d need if cut off from the stores for a week or two. That was good advice. Our supplies lasted the three days we couldn’t get out, with enough left to eat pretty well for a week more.

Our little generator powered the most important things—the furnace, the refrigerator, and the microwave. The bathroom and the kitchen got enough of its homemade electricity to light our way to and within them. No lights in the living or dining room, and no place to eat in the kitchen.

Thanks to a working microwave, and some good refrigerated leftovers and canned stuff, we ate well, and stayed healthy. On hand always are: sharp cheddar, frozen bread, peanut butter, jam, canned beans, canned tomato sauce and diced tomatoes, bottles and jars of fruit juice, apples, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, onions and garlic, potatoes, and herbs to bring those leftovers back to gourmet status—marjoram, thyme, tarragon, basil, and oregano.

I’ve probably given you our Black Bean Chili recipe before, but I’ll run it again, because it’s a favorite of ours for any day. It’s quick to make, too.

Black Bean Chili
2 servings

1 15-ounce can black beans or 2 cups home cooked beans

3 Tablespoons salsa piquante, or to taste

1 fairly large ripe red tomato, diced

1/3 cup minced parsley

¼ cup finely chopped red onion

1x1x2-inch piece sharp cheddar cheese

Heat the beans to steaming in a 1-pint size glass bowl in microwave. The time will vary according to how strong your microwave is. If you’re cooking on a propane camp stove or a gas cook stove, heat the beans in a small saucepan on medium heat, stirring occasionally, until simmering hot. Stir in the salsa and taste. Stir in more if you like it hotter.

Put each vegetable in a separate small dish. We use glass custard cups. They look quite appetizing. Let diners garnish their own chili.

Grate the cheese and put it in a larger bowl.

Serve the lot with whole-grain dark bread and butter, and fruit juice or water with a slice of lemon.

Quick Homemade Tomato Soup
2 servings

1 8-ounce can Hunt’s Tomato Sauce

1 cup milk (same can refilled with milk saves dishwashing)

2 or 3 Tablespoons half-n-half cream or 1 Tablespoon butter or reasonable facsimile

2 Tablespoons minced parsley for garnish, optional

Put the tomato sauce into a small saucepan. While stirring, with the pan on medium heat, gradually pour in the milk. This usually saves it from curdling due to the acid tomato sauce. Heat to steaming. Add half-n-half or butter. Pour or ladle into soup bowls.

Garnish each with a tablespoon of minced parsley. Dried parsley may be used, but stir it into the soup before serving. The heat and moisture will rehydrate it.

With hot cups of one of my anti-histaminic, antibacterial, antiviral Magic Potions we’re warding off colds and coping with sore throats, so far. Knock wood.

Magic Potion No. 1

Hot Lemonade with Cloves: Microwave a lemon a few seconds to warm it. Halve and squeeze it into an 8-ounce mug. Pour in boiling or very hot tap or microwaved water. Stir in honey to taste and 1/8 teaspoon powdered ginger.

Magic Potion No. 2

Put in small saucepan: 1 rounded teaspoon pau d’arco bark, 1 teaspoon whole cloves and a stick of cinnamon. Pour in 1 1/2 cups water. Bring to a simmer. Cover and cook 15 to 30 minutes.

Magic Potion No. 3

Steep a green tea bag in 8 ounces of boiling water 2 minutes. Remove it and add a slice of lemon, about half an inch of Magic Potion No. 2, ¼ to ½ teaspoon ginger powder and honey to taste.

Dance for the Dental Van

Continued from Page 1

The main point, though, is this: March Twisdale is hoping to create a BUZZ all over the island so that her January Fundraiser Classes will be FULL of new dancers!

You see, AT LEAST 50% of tuition is automatically going to the Dental Van - BUT, with more people, March Twisdale can donate 60% or 70% or maybe even 80% of your dollars to help out YOUR community!

Medical Teams International has promised to reserve the funds raised for our island - so, rather than disappearing into the larger umbrella organization, OUR community funds will stay HERE! On our island!

The BEAUTY of this fundraiser is that each person that participates will get MANY bangs for their buck! For \$100, you will get the following:

(1) A fabulous 4-week Swing Class & 4 Practice Parties with March Twisdale

(2) You will be giving (to yourself or a loved one) a GREAT Holiday Gift

(3) You will be marking off a New Year’s Resolution that is on most people’s “bucket lists” - to learn partner dancing

and gain confidence and joy on the dance floor!

(4) You’ll be signing up for one of the Best ways to stay warm, make friends, get exercise, and have a blast on dark, cold, wintery January Nights!

(5) You’ll be able to grace the dance floor at the Feb. 13th Dental Van Benefit Dance - while taking your sweetheart out dancing for Valentine’s Day!

(6) AND put a smile on your own face PLUS the faces of many community members who need and deeply appreciate the services offered by the wonderful Dental Van volunteers!

WOW! That’s stretching \$100 really, really far...and it’s all good, folks. SO, right now, before you get busy or distracted and forget where you saw all this good news... CALL MARCH TWISDALE AND SIGN UP FOR THE DENTAL VAN SWING DANCE SERIES!

Everyone CAN learn how to Dance - and Everyone on our island SHOULD have access to quality dental care! As a community - THIS IS DEFINITELY A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

Call March Twisdale @ 473-1643 or email her at vashondance@live.com



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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!
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Lopy Laffs

What do reindeer sing to Santa Claus on his birthday?
“Freeze a jolly good fellow.”

A missionary suddenly came face to face with a lion. Thinking that his situation was hopeless, he sank to his knees in prayer, but then became greatly relieved when the lion got down on his knees beside him.
“Dear brother lion,” said the missionary, “how heartening it is to find you joining me in Christian prayer when a few moments ago I feared for my life!”
“I’m saying grace!” growled the lion,

The young woman was complaining to one of her friends. “It was terrible!” she said. “I had to change seats five times at the movie last night!”
“Why?” asked her friend. “Did some guy bother you?”
“Yeah,” she said, “eventually!”

I was trying to mow the lawn before my husband got home from work, but our electric lawn mower refused to cooperate. It would run fine for a few seconds, then cut off, run again, cut off. Finally, I gave up and waited for my husband. He had a good laugh when he diagnosed the problem. Instead of plugging in the mower using a three-prong adapter, I had hooked up the cord through the Christmas-tree light blinker.

A six year old girl and her four year old brother were sitting together in church. The brother giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his sister had had enough.
“You’re not supposed to talk out loud in church,” she hissed at Joel.
“Why? Who’s going to stop me?” he shot back.
Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, “See those two men standing by the door?”
He nodded.
“They’re hushers.”

A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog.

A man walked into a drugstore looking for a card. “I’m looking for a really special greeting card,” he said to the druggist behind the counter.
“I think I have just the thing,” said the druggist. He came out from behind the counter and walked over to the racks of greeting cards.
The man followed.
“Here it is,” the pharmacist said, pulling out a card. “It says, ‘Words cannot describe how much I love you, my sweetheart. You’ll always be my one and only true love.’”
“I’ll take three,” said the man.

The doctors at the health center went on strike. Company officials said that as soon as they can get a pharmacist over there to read the picket signs, they will respond to the doctors’ demands.

Q. What’s the opposite of Progress?
A. Congress!




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Moose Lake

This all weather wax snowman is great Jeb!

I know! The best part is you can repair any damage he may get with a simple tube of lip balm.

I called the news station to see if they would do a story on my all weather wax snowman. I even told them it comes with six lip balm repair tubes.

They told me there is no such thing as a balm-able snowman.

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LOGJAM



BY Jeff Hawley

WHOOSH IT’S TOO HOT IN HERE!



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BETTER GET RID OF THESE TWINKLY LIGHTS



BLORP

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT WAS “XMAS-PROOF ARMOR”



OW... THIS TINSEL IS ITCHY

HAWLEY

What's going on December 10-12

The Doily Brothers with Allison Shirk

The Doily Brothers band is truly an Island fixture. The band was originally formed circa 1970 and some very talented Island musicians have been a part of its soul. Bringing you a well rounded mix of Classic Rock , Country & Blues, the energetic (and sometimes explosive) style of the Doily Brothers will keep you on your feet. So, for something unique and entertaining, this band delivers.....

Joining the Doily Brothers for this show is local favorite Allison Shirk. Allison will be singing some classic rock tunes



along with the boys, so come on out to the Bike and get out on the dance floor!

Friday, December 10, 9pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Hejira - Acoustic Ancient Style



Hejira is a genre-bending musical hybrid combining ancient world styles, global rhythms and exotic scales with modern instrumentation. The band consists of founder/composer Don Baragiano on guitar, Anil Prasad on the Indian percussion (tabla), Kenyon Curtiss on acoustic/ electric guitars, Godin Electric Oud, keyboards, and bass guitar, Dale Speicher on percussion and Azula, singer/dancer from Chicago. www.hejiramusic.net/band/Hejira.html

Friday, December 10, 7pm, At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD
www.cafelunavashon.com

Long Lost Trio

Todd Zimberg, Micheal Gotz and Keith Lowe bring some cool Jazz to the Red Bike! Long Lost Island drummer Todd Zimberg will reunite with two of his closest musician friends, guitarist Michael Gotz and bass player Keith Lowe. Last September, this trio blew everyone away at the Red Bike. It should prove to be another great a night of jazz, rock and blues.



inspired music!! Free cover. All ages 'til 11pm.

Come out and hear a great night of
Saturday, December 11, 8:30pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Kat and Kate at the Q



Singer/songwriters Kat Eggleston and Kate MacLeod will perform a holiday show at Quatermaster Inn from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11. The show is free to benefit the Food Bank. Please bring a donation to the Vashon Food Bank.

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

At the Quatermaster Inn, 24007 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5355

Plaster Plays Sportsman's Inn

With a Deafening Roar, PLASTER debuted in 2004 with a focused intensity that moves people. Literally moves them, as they retreat about 5 feet from the tsunami of volume. PLASTER has since turned down. Just a little.

A quartet of hardened rock veterans, PLASTER doesn't take much lightly. Exceptionally heavy and dark, PLASTER cues up right behind such influences as Quicksand, Kyuss, Helmet and Black Sabbath. The mood isn't entirely malevolent,



with barbed hooks to snag and calculated irony to intrigue. Join the band to celebrate Monica's Birthday!

Saturday, December 11, 9pm, Sportman's Inn, 17611 Vashon Hwy SW, 206-463-0940

Green Island Bluegrass Band



T he driving pulse of a doghouse bass, high lonesome harmonies and fiery instrumentals sum up Green Island Bluegrass, a group of friends picking traditional bluegrass as well some stuff

a little closer to the edge. Green Island Bluegrass is Daniel Agne, Cliff Simpson, Jean Richstad, Dan Brown and Rochelle Munger with fiddle, guitar, banjo, mandolin.

Saturday, December 11, 7:30pm, At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD

Church of Great Rain
Pays Homage to
Vashon Community Care's
Christmas Miracle

If you've been to Church of Great Rain – a variety show in the spirit of Prairie Home Companion that typically draws about 400 people – you know the humor borders on irreverence. Not religious irreverence. It's "the Vashon Way" that fuels the fire. Whether it's the upheaval of the Community Council or the hordes of Islanders who deprive themselves of tasty foods in an effort to discover what inflames them, there's a boundless supply of material from which to choose for poking fun at Vashon's weirdness. Yet there's always a story or two that transcends the Church's satiric silliness. The Vashon Community Care "Christmas Miracle" is one.

It was during the holiday season of 1995 when several concerned Islanders joined forces to save the local nursing home that was about to close its doors and displace 34 elderly residents. Within one month, they raised \$250,000 to lease the building from the current owners. Over the next five years, many of these same people, with the help of others, transformed the old nursing home into Vashon Community Care, a highly regarded assisted living and nursing facility for up to 79 residents.

VCC's "Christmas Miracle" story is a highlight of Church of Great Rain's

December 12 show. While there's no doubt that comedy will rule, the intent will be to celebrate the generous, activist spirit of this little Island we call home.

Join your neighbors on December 12th at the Open Space for Arts and Community to enjoy a little holiday magic at Church of Great Rain's "Christmas Miracle" spectacular, featuring the Church House Band and the Holy Roller Radio Players, along with some special Island guests. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids and are available at Island book stores and online at www.brownpapertickets.com. Go to www.greatrain.com for more information.

Restaurants join together
to support VCC

Enjoy dinner after the show on December 12th and at one of these five restaurants, and they will give a portion of their night's proceeds to Vashon Community Care:

- La Playa
- Quatermaster Pub
- Red Bike
- Spice Route
- The Hardware Store

A Cowboy Country
Christmas at the Q

RiverBend, the popular island band of Dave Lang, Chuck Roehm, Mark Graham, Paul Colwell, Peter Larsen, Randy Bruce and Shelly Frankel will play at the Quatermaster Inn, Saturday, December 18.

With instrumentation ranging from Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins, Fiddles, Accordion, Harmonica, Autoharp and Upright Bass and songs from traditional old-time country favorites, folk songs, cajun, new twists on popular rock to original songs.

RiverBend provides a variety for everyone to keep the toes tapping and



the hands clapping. There will even a few sing along songs. Come enjoy juicy steaks, cheap whiskey & foot stomping' tunes.

At the Quatermaster Inn, 24007 Vashon Hwy, Phone 206-463-5355, December 18

The Howdy Boys

The band's roots are in the great 1950's hard-driving honky tonk songs, mixing blistering barnstormers and breakdowns with bouncy blues and soulful ballads. The band's original tunes and songs pepper the mix of classic bluegrass and traditional country material. Crying fiddle, sparkling banjo, crisp guitar and propulsive bass get the audience moving and dancing to the beat; mix in passionate singing and lonesome harmonies and it all adds up to the irresistible sound of THE HOWDY BOYS.

The band's roots go back many years in Seattle bluegrass. Fiddler DOUG BRIGHT mastered oldtime and bluegrass music at an early age and his expert fiddle playing has set fire to some great bands! He founded and edits the Heritage Review, a Northwest roots music magazine. Banjo picker BILL SCOTT powers the show with his Don Reno-inspired leads and rock solid timing. Bill's cheerful spirits and great musicianship have made him the "go-to" banjo player for countless NW bands over the years. JEFF BROHIER anchors the HOWDY BOYS with his bass playing and writes down-to-earth bluegrass songs, which he sings with passion and grit. Guitar picker and lead singer ROB BULKLEY got the bluegrass disease after hearing Doc



Watson and Clarence White in the 1970's. He's a veteran of many fine bands and mixes his own bluesy, driving guitar sound with heartfelt, energetic vocals on classic, obscure, and original songs.

In a little over 2 years of existence, THE HOWDY BOYS have performed at Brewgrass in Anacortes, The Taste Of Edmonds, The Olalla Bluegrass Festival, The Woodman Lodge in Snohomish, The Mandolin Café in Tacoma, and has played extended engagements at Pies & Pints in Seattle and Smokin' Pete's Barbecue in Seattle. You can get a sample of THE HOWDY BOYS sound by visiting www.myspace.com/thehowdyboys.

Saturday, December 18, 7pm,
At Cafe Luna, 9924 SW Bank RD

In Honor of John Browne

This will be an amazing night of open-mic music, honoring our good friend John Browne. Island musicians will take the stage to pay tribute to this local folk hero in a fundraiser to help offset some of the costs relating to John’s unfortunate accident November 22nd. John Browne, a longtime Islander and nurseryman known for his traditional blues guitar-playing and singing, was critically injured during the height of the snowstorm while trying to remove a tree that had fallen across a road. Musicians interested in performing at this open mic event should contact Pete Welch at vashonmusic@gmail.com



Saturday, December 18, 9:30pm.
At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy
206-463-5959

Youth Chorus stages A Charlie Brown Christmas

By Janice Randall

Will Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang discover the true meaning of Christmas? Come experience for yourself the joy of youthful voices and holiday magic on stage when Vashon Island Youth Chorus stages holiday classic A Charlie Brown Christmas under direction of Marita Ericksen. 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.

Nearly 30 talented young Islanders, ages 7 to 15, are double-cast for the show. Charlie Brown will be played by Isaac Hughes for all performances. 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,” adds Ericksen

The first half of the evening 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.

Ericksen has enlisted a stellar group of adult crew. Kevin Joyce helped with theatre games and choreography, vocal coaching by noted Vashon Island Choral soloist,



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

Joe Farmer, auditions, drama coaching and general support from Island director Libbie Anthony and costume creation by daughter Elise Ericksen. Even Gary Cannon conductor of Vashon Island Chorale got in on a few rehearsals. Versatile Randy Bruce will provide piano accompaniment and VIYC/stage veteran Max Lopusznski will stage manage.

Vashon Island Youth Chorus in:
A Charlie Brown Christmas
& Seasonal Choral Music
Dec. 9-12
Thursday, Dec. 9, Preview 6 pm
(\$5 donation with canned goods for Community Food Bank)
Friday and Saturday, 7 pm
Sunday, 4 pm, \$6 all children, VAA Members, seniors/\$9 general
At the Blue Heron.
Tickets available at Heron’s Nest, Blue Heron, Books by the Way

Clinton Fearon



If you know reggae music, you know Clinton “Basie” Fearon. For over 18 years Fearon was a singer and bass player with the internationally renowned group The Gladiators. Fearon’s first two releases with the group were (singles) “Freedom Train” and “Rockaman Soul” on Lloyd Daley’s Matador label, both of which reached the Top 10 on the Jamaican charts. Jamaica’s top producer, Coxsone Dodd of Studio One, produced “The Gladiators” a full length album featuring Fearon as songwriter and vocalist on several songs including Step Right Back. In 1974 The Gladiators went to Joe Gibbs’ studio to record “Proverbial Reggae”; Fearon wrote many of the songs on this album and the producer Prince Tony Robinson insisted that Fearon sing the lead vocals including “Can You Imagine How I Feel”, “Stop Before You Go”, and “Marvel Not”. In addition to his demanding recording schedule with The Gladiators, Fearon was also a house musician for Lee “Scratch” Perry’s Black Ark Studio. Fearon recorded on many of Perry’s best known songs, including “Roast Fish and Cornbread,” which features one of Fearon’s most famous bass lines.

When Fearon relocated to Seattle in 1989 he co-founded The Defenders. He wrote the lyrics and sang lead vocals on The Defenders’ EP “Chant Down Babylon/Rock YourBones.” In 1990 Fearon released his first compilation of original tunes “Feel The Spirit,”and the first pressing sold out in less than one month. In 1993 Fearon formed his own group, the Boogie Brown Band. The debut album was a collection of 13 original songs entitled “Disturb the Devil”. A second CD, “Mystic Whisper” was released in early 1997. Fearon and the Boogie Brown Band released their third album, a double CD entitled “What a System” in June of 1999 on the Kool Yu Foot label. Mixed by renowned JA engineer, Scientist, “What A System” has received international critical acclaim and has secured and maintained Top Charting positions since then. Clinton Fearon is counted among Jamaica’s most talented musicians by peers and professionals in the Reggae music industry. His infectious bass riffs have always led the way, whether he is playing bass, guitar or percussion, singing lead vocals or providing background harmonies. If you missed his show at the Red Bicycle Bistro & Sushi last August...now’s your chance to see him live & in person on Vashon Island. What a treat it is to have this band come to us. Clinton Fearon sold out ALL his past shows at the Bike and this one is happening in the Summer....so it is highly recommended that you call in advance and purchase your tickets. Call 463-5959 to charge your tickets on your credit card by phone. For more information on Clinton Fearon, visit his website at www.clintonfearon.com

Friday, December 17, 9:30pm.
At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy
206-463-5959



Waiting for
Superman
Starts December 10

Life as We Know It
December 14-16

Best Rural Movie Theatre
2010- Seattle Weekly

For show times and info check
www.vashontheater.com

Drama Dock Presents Nuncracker

Drama Dock’s annual holiday production, “Nuncrackers,” is an irreverent musical romp through a convent and Catholic school, starring a cast of 14 Island thespians. Drama Dock Director Christopher Ott teams up again with Elizabeth Ripley to bring you another hilarious holiday treat!

The show, created by Dan Goggin, is part of a successful franchise of “Nunsense” shows, which have been produced more than 5,000 times worldwide and translated into 21 languages. The show will be presented at the Blue Heron at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17, 18, 23 and 26, and at 2 p.m. Dec. 19. There will also be a 2 p.m. performance on Dec. 26. Tickets, \$10 and \$15, are on sale at Island book stores, Heron’s Nest, Blue Heron and online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Vashon’s Yellow Pages on line.
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
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of *The Loop*
Comes out
Thursday,
December 23**

Deadline for the next
edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, December 17

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PANDORA'S BOX

Holidays approach whether we're ready or not! The question is, will we have the Christmas stuff out before the 15th? Around here you never know.

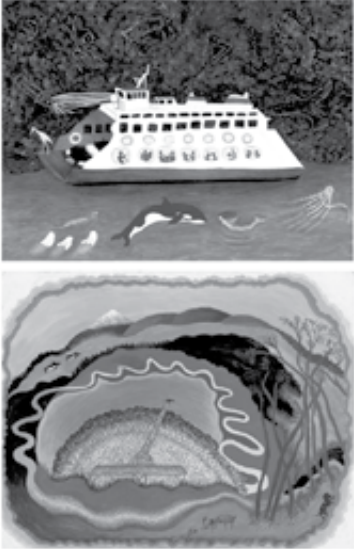
Buddy's Pick of the Week:
Fantabulous humongous fleece bones and balls. They are ginormous and your dog wants one. For the felines, try some catnip to take the edge off of that holiday stress.

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17321 Vashon Hwy SW Big Red building w/Animal Stuff on the porch

It's gutter cleaning time again!

Don't let a slip off your ladder ruin your fun. Let me handle the hard to reach leaves in your gutters, and you can take care of the ones on the lawn.

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206.228.7902
VashonWindowCleaning.com



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**

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