



VASHON

THE LOOP

Vol. 9, #25

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December 6, 2012

VAA debuts *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*



Olivia London-Chambers, Naomi Jones, Lily Bernheisel. Photo by Janice Randall

By Janice Randall

VAA Musical Theatre, under direction of Marita Ericksen, stages *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, a hilarious tale performed by 23 Island thespians, ages 7 to 17, with appearances by an additional cast of adorable 'baby angels' Friday and Saturday, December 14, 15, at 7 pm, Sunday, December 16, 2 pm.

The *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* tells the uproarious story of how six children wreak havoc in the community Christmas play and ultimately bring hope and joy to all. Written by Barbara Robinson in 1971, the book became an instant classic and was first adapted to stage in 1982 by Seattle Children's

Theatre.

"This is the first time I've ever staged the show," says Ericksen. The production includes intermittent vocals from the cherubic 'angel choir.' The entire cast will sing pre-show seasonal songs with piano accompaniment by Ericksen and guitar and mandolin by Paul Colwell. Characters will sing solos and duets. Narrator Sarah Hotchkiss also performs as several characters. Mia Knight plays Imogene the ringleader Herdman sister and Maria Gilmore plays the harried, ill-fated pageant director.

Ericksen says it truly takes a village to stage a production of this magnitude.

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Drama Dock Brings An Old Favorite To the Blue Heron Art Center for the Holidays!



Joseph & Clarence. Photo By Casey Gripp.

By Elizabeth Ripley

There was something wondrous and magical about sitting in on the auditions for Frank Capra's, *It's A Wonderful Life*, to be presented at the VAA's Blue Heron Art Center this December. Wondrous because Drama Dock Theatre is presenting this timeless holiday classic, which just happens to be one of the most inspirational and best loved movies in American cinema, as a staged radio play. Magical because of the people who came thru the door, ready to assist director Elise Morrill, were ready to devote their Holidays to bringing Vashon yet another Holiday Classic.

Frank Capra's classic bittersweet comedy/drama is about George Bailey, an eternally-in-debt guiding force of small town bank in a typical American town: Bedford Falls. It is Christmas Eve in 1946, and George, who has long and ineffectively struggled to escape from the confines of his "normal" life, faces financial ruin and arrest. High above Bedford Falls, two celestial voices discuss Bailey's dilemma and send down some help: the eternally bumbling angel Clarence Oddbody, who after 200 years has yet to manage to earn his wings.

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Road to Resilience Giving

By Terry Sullivan, Transition Vashon

It's Christmas time and, once again, we are being encouraged to mindlessly spend our way out of the recession. Some of us experience anxiety trying to come up with meaningful gifts for a dozen or more people in just a month. There are people that manage to do it in three days! Some of us just get anxious at the thought of spending money we don't have. What bothers me most is the amount of stuff we are being asked to buy that will likely be in the trash or lost in the back of a forlorn closet before another year goes by.

Let's not encourage this sort of behavior. Our economy was shaped at a time when energy and resources were cheap and abundant. We invented things that we never imagined we would ever want much less need. The key was to keep the factories humming by utilizing cheap construction and planned obsolescence. Now we need larger houses and rentable storage units to store all of that stuff. At a time when our energy and resources need to be strategically and sparingly utilized, we are still pursuing this "consumption is good!" madness.

At a time of diminishing natural

resources, the stuff we make and buy should be practical, useful, well made, and beautiful in some way. That means a lot fewer people will be employed in manufacturing, which I think is okay since most of those jobs are not in this country anyway and include abusive conditions and slave wages. That doesn't mean we won't be making things. Hopefully, we will all be cultivating our inner fabricator/inventor and be much the better for it. Many of us are already pretty adept at it as you can see from the many items that our friends and neighbors are selling at the various galleries around the island. If you have discretionary income and you simply must spend it during the Holidays, then at least give to your friends and neighbors and keep the money on the island. Most everything you find that is made here will incorporate most of the qualities I mentioned at the beginning of this paragraph.

We are stuck in this yearly concentrated gifting binge, and most of us really want to give to our family and friends. Many of us find this to be a dark

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Serving up Charity Vashon Style

By Allison Shirk

When Melinda Sontgerath first started Guest Bartender night at her Seattle restaurant, 50 North, it was a way to get the neighborhood to get to know the restaurant while giving back to the community by supporting local charities. It was a huge success and now the idea of Guest Bartender Night is coming home to Vashon Island's Hardware Store Restaurant.

It's no surprise that many people have always dreamed of being a bartender. Even before the movie, *Cocktail*, with Tom Cruise hit the theaters, the art of bartending has made the job the crown of the service industry. The bartender is all knowing - a ruler of his own destiny,

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The Washington State Fairies, Tami Brockway Joyce and Jennifer Sutherland will be guest bartenders, Dec. 13 for the Vashon Food Bank, at the Hardware Store Restaurant.

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Get in The Loop

Submissions to the Loop

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

VIPP Holiday Bake Sale

Vashon Island Pet Protectors Holiday bake Sale. Between Thriftway and True Value Sat. December 8th 9a.m.-1p.m.

Stop by to purchase an array of goodies baked by some of the Island’s best bakers. If you would like to contribute please drop off your tightly wrapped & labeled goodies after 8:30 the morning of the 8th. For more information please call Victoria 463-5381

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. Other interested progressives always welcome!
DATE: Tuesday, December 11, 7-9pm
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.

Major Topics:
1) Vashon Governance.
2) Transition Vashon/Resilience Circles.
3) Coal Trains to Cherry Point.
4) Health Care for All.
Questions: Melvin Mackey, Secretary, (206) 463-3468

Water District 19’s next regular meeting

Water District 19’s next regular meeting set for Tuesday, December 11th, 2012 at 4:30 PM here in the district’s board room, 17630 100th Ave SW, Vashon Island

Santa Engine

Vashon Island Fire & Rescue announced that each Friday and Saturday evening starting November 30 through December 15th Santa, accompanied by Firefighter helpers, will be visiting Vashon neighborhoods on a fire engine. Santa will be dispensing holiday cheer and reminding parents of the need for working smoke detectors in each home.
If you see a Fire Engine decorated with Christmas lights and broadcasting Christmas music, families are invited to greet Santa from the sidewalk. He and his elves will be handing out candy canes. Santa says that he will make individual house calls if a youngster is homebound during the Holiday Season. Special arrangements may be made by calling VIFR at 463-2405.

Author Bob Ward Book Signing

Author Bob Ward will do a book Signing/Reading at the Hardware Store Restaurant Sunday Dec 16th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Proceeds will go to Toys for the Children...sponsored by the Vashon Kiwanis club.
Le Reve (“the Dream”) a children’s adventure fantasy is a tale of hope and self discovery. Guided by a mystic and helped by “The Magic”, Caroline Fairchild along with a mythical friend brought to life through the wonder of dreams, must struggle to make their way through the Forest of Shadows and beyond.
“May your Dreams forever come true!”

Save the Date

Dirty Little Secrets! Premier Island Gardeners Terry Hershey, Greg Rabourn, and Sara and Sam Van Fleet, in concert with The Heritage Museum’s Passion In The Dirt Exhibit, will share their gardening secrets on Thursday, January 24, 7PM @ The Land Trust - Free!

Vashon Drum Circle

All ages are welcome to drum and sing with Buffalo Heart, our big community drum. Vashon Drum Circle meets Friday, Dec. 14, 7 PM at Vashon Intuitive Arts. Free event; donations gratefully accepted. Sponsored by Woman’s Way Red Lodge, a non-profit dedicated to promoting balance and wholeness by enlivening the sacred feminine in our communities.

Fund for the benefit of India Castle Family

Vashon Allied Arts has set up a fund for the benefit of India Castle Family at US Bank. People may contact any US Bank and make contributions to: India Castle Family Benefit Fund.
Checks may also be dropped off at Vashon Allied Arts.

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The Vashon Loop

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Kiwanis Toy Drive


Due to the large number of families in the past two years needing help we are no longer able to take request forms or fill bags. We are going to have a “Free” store this year for adults only to shop for their children. With the store being open for 2 days (December 15th and 16th from 9 AM to 4PM), we hope that this will make it easier for parent/guardian(s) to find toys, clothes, games and personal care items for their children (Infant to 18)

In addition to the store there will be a lunch with Santa at the Eagles on both days from 1 to 4.

The Toy Drive is in need of toys, games, all sizes of clothes and personal care items.

We will have boxes located at Island Home Center & Lumber, True Value, Vashon Thriftway, IGA Market Fresh, Chamber of Commerce, Vashon Pharmacy and the Eagles. Boxes will be set out on the 23rd of November and picked up late on the 14th of December.

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Next Edition of *The Loop* Comes out Thursday, December 20

Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is Friday, December 14

Park District Furloughs Employees 3 days

Vashon Park District’s Interim Executive Director, Susan McCabe, announced today that the District will furlough all its full and part-time employees for the last three days of Christmas week, 2012 -- December 26, 27 and 28. The move necessitates the closure of all parks, Vashon Commons and park activities for the week of December 24 through 30. Ober Performance room programs will be cancelled. All Vashon

Commons activities for those days will be cancelled.

The decision was made in an effort to reduce a predicted year-end shortfall of approximately \$57,668. The furloughs will save the District \$3527.28. Commissioners David Hackett and Joe Wald have promised to vote in favor of allowing the District to pursue additional financing that might secure continued operations in exchange for the furloughs.

Pure Vegan Organic Cafe Event

Please help a local small and unique business to stay in business. Pure, Vashon’s only vegan, organic, gluten-free health and wellness cafe, opened in May of 2010.

Their mission is to provide healthy alternatives to mainstream dining, and to educate and contribute to the public health and well-being of our community. We strive to do this everyday by serving clean, whole, unprocessed foods that maintain health as well as heal and prevent disease.

We only serve fresh, unprocessed, and homemade juices, smoothies, meals, and desserts.

Our foods are:

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We buy many seasonal ingredients from Vashon Farms to support the local farmers and to serve our customers the freshest fruits,vegetables, and herbs available. We need your support to survive and to grow.

Please attend our “Help Pure Endure” social and fundraiser on Friday, December 7th. Come any time between 6pm and 10pm. We’ll be serving complimentary appetizers, wheat grass shots, wine, and desserts. We look forward to seeing you here.

If you cannot attend the event and would still like to make a donation, please stop by during regular business hours or send your donation to: Pure

P.O. Box 1111
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Vashon Film Society presents “Cave of Forgotten Dreams”

By Leslie McMichael

“Cave of Forgotten Dreams,” a film from celebrated director Werner Herzog, uses 3D film technology to stunning effect to grant audiences unprecedented access to Chauvet Cave, a pristine French cavern discovered by archaeologists in 1994. Now Vashon audiences will have a chance to see the ancient cave paintings captured in all their contoured glory, thanks to the iconic film maker and the new 3D capabilities at the Vashon Theatre.

Vashon Film Society presents “Cave of Forgotten Dreams” in 3D as part of the First Friday Art Film Series. The one-time only showing will occur on Friday, December 7 at 7:30 pm at the Vashon Theatre. The art film series curates single screenings of acclaimed films that might have a hard time drawing audiences for a full week run. Admission is \$7.

For more than 20,000 years, Chauvet Cave was completely sealed off by a fallen rock face. When the archaeological team first entered the cave, they found a crystal-encrusted space as big as a football field, littered with the petrified remains of giant ice age mammals. And on the walls were hundreds of spectacular paintings, artwork dating back more than 30,000 years (twice as old as any previous finds) to a time when cave bears, mammoths, ice age lions and



Neanderthals still roamed Europe.

Since the discovery, only a few people have been allowed access into Chauvet Cave, and the true scope of its contents had largely gone unfelt—until film maker Werner Herzog managed to gain access. Filming in 3D, Herzog captures the beauty and wonder of one of the most awe-inspiring sites on earth.

Says Film Society president Leslie McMichael, “With the film studio asking \$500 for the screening, we’ll need a good turnout just to pay for showing this film. VFS’ mission is not to make money, but we definitely hope islanders will turn out in droves for this single screening visionary look at the birth of art. You’ll see able to see the new James Bond film for weeks on end, but ‘Cave of Forgotten Dreams’ is once only!”

Cooper Needs A Home...

Cooper is a 3+ year old mutt (German Shephard, Bloodhound, Mastiff). He is a really smart dog who needs to be challenged. He gets along well with other dogs and kids. He would do best in a home with no cats or chickens. If you want a really smart companion to go on long walks and help you with crossword puzzles then Cooper is your dog! Contact dogs@VIPP.org to meet me. \$125 adoption fee.



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Island Life Parks and Wreck

by Peter Ray

I am staring at a copy of the 2012 Operating Budget for the Vashon Parks District (VPD). Actually, that is not true. I am staring at my keyboard as I hunt and peck this onto the page. In truth, staring at the keyboard gets me way further down the information highway than hours of pondering this document put forth and approved by our Parks Commissioners. One could spend the time, as I have, going to a number of VPD commissioners meetings and come away with no greater understanding of what this document means, or of what is actually going on with Parks. One could see a nice net zero net at the bottom of the sheet from the approved budget document dated 1/27/2012. But then one could ask, as many have at these meetings, why there have been so many personnel cuts and program changes at Parks, only to be gaveled into silence (in direct violation of the Roberts Rules of Order) and be told by Commission Chair Bill Ameling that we are “doing fine” and are “moving forward”. With the following five of seven statements listed as his “special interests”: “Conduct should be deserving of respect; Maintain accountability- what’s in the budget; District as well-run organization; Inform the public about the Park District; Transparency in government”- as board chairman, one could say that Ameling has failed miserably in attending to these interests, let alone acknowledging through his actions at these meetings that he listed them in the first place.

My first direct experience with VPD was a few years back when I was asked to attend the meetings that took place regarding the acquisition of the outdoor pool from King County. As someone who sees maintaining a public place to swim as a benefit to the community, I was more than willing to spend my time scratching my head at meetings and asking what I thought were relevant questions, although the answers I received were not always what I wanted or expected to hear. One of the most puzzling of these exchanges revolved around the \$75,000 grant that came from the county to help with the transition. I have struggled to locate that in the budget from two years ago that was posted on the VPD site, but found nothing that was recognizable or labeled as that grant. What really bothered me at the time was the statement by Wendy Braicks that they really weren’t concerned with generating revenue from the pool the first year. As the other half of my household works for a real park district in the City of Seattle, I have become acutely aware of the fact that, although pools and fields and various other park facilities are subsidized, a major part of a facility administrator’s job is to maximize revenues through the scheduling of paying programs. What I learned this year was that during VPD’s first year of pool stewardship, the swim team that used the facility on a regular basis paid no use fee. That changed this past summer. What seems even stranger though is that this is not uncommon throughout the Vashon Park system. I have it on good authority that fees for field usage are not charged. If anyone knows otherwise I’d like to hear about it. There is a \$10K item listed under income for fields usage, but it would seem to me that with over \$1 million currently being spent on fields “improvements”, the return on this investment as presently indicated would only politely be termed as

pathetic. There is also the question of where the costs for the fields project are shown in any of the printed budget materials, as well as any indication of where the funding grants are listed, how much has been paid and how much has been received to pay it. This doesn’t seem to show up on any of the budget statements that have been posted on the VPD site. But questions along that line of public interest inquiry have only been answered by Chairman Bill through his overuse of the gavel and the words “...we are moving on”.

And then there is the not so little question of the Rosser residence, and why the house and buildings on their property were deemed expendable in the original plans for the new soccer field complex. What is so important about a set of athletic fields and their improvement that an established residence of over sixty years would be bulldozed so as to make way so that an occasional use, over-fertilized meadow could stand in its place? Why was a U.S. geodetic survey marker bulldozed and removed from the site, regardless of the toothless and unenforced laws and fines that exist to ensure their preservation? Why was grading on the fields done without proper permitting? Why was the flow of water runoff altered against all rules to the contrary? What is going on here? Oh no- not the gavel. Tap, tap, tap- we are moving on. Or are we?

I just received a call as a result of an early passing around of this treatise. It was from a friend of mine in Parks and he suggested I mention this tidbit. To date, \$1.7 million has been spent on this fields project, without it being completed yet. Because of this incompleted state, matching grants that could be used to help cover some costs are being missed as deadlines pass. These grants are needed and will be missed, as the estimated total cost for this project, if and when it is done, will be around \$2.7 million. My friend in Parks mentioned that it should be pointed out that with an estimated \$900,000 coming in to run VPD through the annual property tax levy, it will take three years worth of levies to cover the fields costs, and that is without paying existing operating costs, let alone the maintenance and watering expenses on these new fields of green. I’ll let you do the math on how that squares with the \$10,000 Fields Facility Usage income currently listed on the 2012 VPD Operating Budget.

It seems that unless some accountability for this mess is achieved, and these and a multitude of other questions are answered, then the current batch of commissioners should step aside so that we can pay more attention this time and elect a set of five commissioners who are in agreement with the basic premise that fitness and health is what the Vashon Park District should be about instead of its current, apparent focus on secrets and lies.



Youth & Family Services to Benefit from Brewmaster’s Dinner at Nirvana

Vashon Youth and Family Services (VYFS) will benefit from a special five-course dinner at Nirvana restaurant on Thursday, December 13 at 6PM. “This idea came from our hearts to give something back to Vashon Island during this time of holiday festivities” says Nirvana’s Shivali Sharma.

Executive Chef Robert Erickson is teaming up with Pike Place Brewing Company to create a unique five course brewmaster’s dinner that incorporates one of the brewery’s beers in each dish as an ingredient as well as offering a taste of a brew that pairs well with each course.

Diane Kjellberg, VYFS Interim Executive Director says “We very much appreciate Nirvana’s generosity, especially during this time of year when the needs of our clients go up substantially.” She said that this effort will help the agency’s Fall fund appeal, as well as assist other programs such as

the VYFS-VIVA program that provides families and individuals in financial crisis help with basic needs. Assistance provided by the VIVA program includes vouchers or small grants for shelter, utilities, food, transportation, and other needs.

“Those who attend the dinner will not only enjoy a delicious meal but will contribute to our agency through this wonderful holiday fundraising effort” Kjellberg says.

VYFS is a non-profit organization that has been providing human services to residents of Vashon Island, Washington, for thirty-five years.

Tickets are \$100 and may be reserved at the restaurant. This event will have limited seating. For more information and reservations contact Nirvana at 463-4455, NirvanaVashon.com or VYFS at 463-5511, vyfs.org.

Food Prices

By March Twisdale

I’m wondering how islanders are preparing for the coming jump in food prices. Despite our 80 day drought in the NW, we’ve had it easy compared to the rest of the country. By July, corn prices were up 40%, soybeans 25%, and they are still increasing. As a result, livestock farmers are killing hogs and cattle, simply because they can’t afford to feed them. We’ll soon see higher dairy, egg, and meat prices, and corn-based fuel will be effected as well.

But, despite all that, it’s not just our drought that’s causing trouble globally! There has also been early dryness in Russia’s wheat growing season, light monsoon rains in India, and drought in Africa’s Sahel region, all of which are contributing to likely food riots and increased starvation around the world. Further, given that this year has been the hottest on record worldwide, we cannot assume 2012 is an anomaly. I’m wondering...who else is preparing, and how? I’m also curious, as I drive past apple-laden trees...at what point does foraging and gardening shift from being a hobby or a “fun country thing to do,” and become a necessary economic activity? A rise in food prices is the same

as a drop in income. How many of us can handle another cut in our income and still pay our mortgage? Some bills can only be paid with American Dollars - others can be gained with trades, favors, and long walks in the woods with a gathering bucket. Every dollar not spent on food today is a dollar that might pay the electric bill next year when times are tougher. Long story short...the age of cheap food and energy is rapidly passing us by. What are we doing today that will help us all tomorrow?

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Spiritual Smart Aleck



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Christmas in Occupied Japan

by Mary Tuel

Hello, boys and girls. Much as I love struggling with the problems of being human and attempting to write about those problems in a way that can make us all laugh, sometimes it's good to take a break and bring in another voice, and another story. This week the guest

The Korean War had broken out four months earlier, but that didn't concern us kids. That Christmas of 1951 we were just excited to learn that Santa Claus knew where we were.

Our class was transported in a big Army bus to the airport on the base at Kokura. The airport was little more than a soaked, grassy field by the side of a dirt road. It was a cold, wet day, gray and cloudy, and we were all in our good shoes and school clothes for this special occasion.

A squad of G.I.s had been transported with us on the bus, giant young soldiers they looked to us, in starched, pressed fatigues and spit-shined combat boots. We all got off the bus wondering where Santa Claus might be in this wet, empty field.

Then what to our wondering eyes should appear

But an olive drab whirlybird loaded with cheer!

It dropped through the fog and set down with a squish

Confirming the promise of each Christmas wish!

It was a two-seater helicopter with a loudspeaker and clear Plexiglas bubble housing the pilot and Santa, both in helmets and

Shape Up Vashon has winners!

Laura Wishik won the big prize, a \$400 Southwest Airlines ticket at the raffle for those with the most stars. Laura won her stars by designing and successfully continuing her weight loss program over the year. Trudy Rosemarin won a large emergency kit backpack. Trudy became a top star winner through exercise, sharing her walks in Center Forest Park with other walkers and volunteering for SUV. Patte Wagner, manager of the Puget Sound Credit Union and Kristen Church of Sawbones also won emergency backpacks. These grab and go packs were donated by the Medical Reserve Corps and Puget Sound Energy. They earned their stars by successfully completing the 10,000 step challenge.

Of the 20 teams that started the Challenge, requiring 30 minutes of exercise, or 10,000 steps 5 days a week, for three weeks, 8 teams successfully completed the Challenge with all their team members finishing. These 8 teams entered a raffle. The winners were, Sawbones Team led by Diane Guthrie, Team True Value, led by John Yates and the Vashon Dental Team, led by Jill Yates. Now THERE is a competitive couple! They won an SUV bag full of goodies including vouchers for the Vashon Athletic Club for day passes, a month's membership, and an hour with a trainer.

This winter, SUV is planning cooking and tasting classes, CPR instruction in partnership with the Fire Dept, more walks and more.

To keep up with Shape Up, visit us at www.shapeupvashon.org or like our Facebook page, Shape Up Vashon.

Winter Solstice at Open Space



A large-scale community event is planned for the evening of the winter solstice, Dec. 21, 2012, at Open Space. Called "The Beginning" and dubbed a "Party/Performance/Community Ritual", it's the brainchild of Martha Enson and Kevin Joyce, aka EnJoy Productions.

It's all all-ages, alcohol free event, and will include staged and roving performances by a wide variety of Vashon and off-island talent, comedy, myth and story, altar-making, live music, and many interactive surprises.

"So much as been made of the Mayan calendar, and the "end of the world"...however wrongly it has been interpreted, there's tremendous energy and expectation built up around that date", says Joyce.

Enson adds: "Our idea was to turn the fear on its head and create a community event that was all about the power of the Imagination to create the future we want."

The event is part celebration, part show, and part interactive

ritual - "but without getting too woo-woo", Joyce points out. It will be very accessible, fun, and user friendly. For example, there will be a large, free dessert buffet (and an Eat Dessert First sign!), the creation of a large-scale altar that represents our dreams for the future, and the invitation to write what you're happy to leave in the past on pieces of paper that then get burnt.

Performers already lined up include the band Avaza, Lelavision, Steffon and Arlette Moody, Storyteller Michael Meade, Martha Enson and Esther Edelman, Lynelle Sjoberg, David Godsey and Janet McAlpin, and Cirque du Soleil veteran Laetitia Bodin.

Eventgoers are encouraged to bring their dancing shoes, a costume to express their dreams for the future, and bring warm clothes too, as the event will take guests outside as well. The event begins at 8pm. All ages welcome. Tickets are \$10 at available at Brown Paper Tickets.



Rick and his dad Mark Tuel on the beach at Karatsu, Japan, September, 1951. Photo by Dawn Tuel.

columnist is my husband, Rick Tuel. A Christmas memory came back to him, and he decided to write it down.

Hope you all had a good Thanksgiving, and are taking care of yourselves as you navigate December, a month full of various kinds of social, financial, and familial landmines. But we'll talk about those another time.

Meanwhile, here's Rick, telling his story of Christmas in Occupied Japan:

This is how I remember it, 61 years later.

I think it was December of 1951 when the first grade class of us Army brat kids was treated to a visit by Santa Claus.

We were the children of the second wave of Army occupation forces in post-World War II Japan. My mom and I arrived one year earlier, joining my dad, who was stationed in Sasebo on the island of Kyushu. In October of 1950 we were moved to a new base in Kokura. After a year in Japan I was already starting to lose touch with many of my early mid-western notions and stateside memories.

flight gear. It circled the bus with Santa waving and shouting, "Ho ho ho! Mer-ry Christmas!"

After one pass it set down in the middle of the soaked airfield and G.I.s began picking up kids and running us out to the helicopter-sleigh, held tightly in their arms. They ran us out one by one, their energy adding to our excitement.

Santa rubbed our heads, gave us each a small wrapped present, wished us "Merry Christmas!" and sent us back to the bus. Our G.I.s dropped us off at the door of the bus as the driver checked us off with a head count.

Shortly the whole class was back on the bus, and we were all excited and noisy, talking about Santa and the Christmas gifts we held in our hands. The formerly immaculate, spit-shined G.I.s were grinning and covered with mud. Santa's heli-sleigh powered up and lifted off, with the Merry Christmases! and Ho ho hos! fading away into the moist gray fog.

When we opened our presents they turned out to be little hand-painted wooden Japanese figurines, about four



Japanese figurines, about four inches tall..." Drawing by Rick Tuel

inches tall, with clothespin heads, round bodies, and flat bottoms so they would stand up. They all had Japanese faces and black hair, and were all the same shape, but each one had a unique paint job, with different colored kimonos. You could play games with them, rolling them across the floor so they'd wobble this way and that, and sometimes they'd roll in such a way that they'd end up standing up. The bottoms were big enough to be marked with what in those days was an all-too-familiar logo: "Made in Occupied Japan."

I wish I hadn't lost mine.



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Aries (March 20-April 19)
There is ambition, and there is aspiration. Ambition is associated with hubris -- the tragic flaw. It's about gaining advantage at any cost, including one's integrity. Aspiration is about the desire to grow, to excel and to succeed. Now is the time in your life when you have the opportunity to sort out the difference, which is not so well understood. While this has been developing as a theoretical issue for a while, now the 'what ifs' are starting to manifest, and you can examine the results of your choices and your actions. The key difference between ambition and aspiration is that one requires suspending personal growth and the other requires that you involve yourself fully in it. It is easy enough to push people into doing what they don't want to do; they are used to being taken advantage of. It is challenging to think ethically, and to consider the greater good in every decision you make. I suggest you pause and do just that, because you are entering a moment of instant karma, where it all comes back to you.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)
Belief is the central theme of your life -- what you believe, why you believe it, and the origins of your point of view. Ideally, it would help to go 'beyond belief' entirely, because the concept is so flimsy. But at first it helps to sort out what you think is true, and why you think so. Once you get there, an investigation of what's actually true is the next step. This is partly a matter of learning, and partly a matter of direct experience. Information or an idea is obviously not wrong by default when it comes from someone else, though you can go deeper into the truth when you have your own experience to illustrate or modify your perception. This is another way of saying that meaning is only truly meaningful in context, and one context you now have is a relationship or close interpersonal situation. You seem to be in a situation where someone else's beliefs are good as far as they go. Be grateful when you reach that limit, because that's the point when your deeper learning begins.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)
It is often said that the truth hurts, though it's much better at healing. The issue that often arises, though, is what you do with your fear of hurting someone because you tell them what you really need, feel or want. If you're in a position where you need to do this, I have a few suggestions. One is remember that ultimately, you don't need anyone's permission or understanding. However, the benefit of a consensus is that it protects the integrity of the relationship. Real consensus is reached by a meeting on the level of the underlying values, not just the matter at hand. Also, I suggest you factor in the social conformity piece of the puzzle, which may be a central influence within the situation. The idea of 'hurt' may involve the fear of not being accepted. Yet there is a deeper layer: I suggest you be keenly aware of the unresolved pain that others may be carrying, even as you embark on your own commitment to a new level of healing. You don't have to be a slave to that pain, or fix anyone -- just be aware of your environment.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
The recent eclipse in the most sensitive angle of your solar chart looks like it stirred up some, well, I was going to say energy, but what I really mean is information. Secrets do not stay secrets forever, and I suggest you celebrate this cosmic truth. The beauty of things being revealed, within yourself, by others or to others, for you is about being a unified critter. Concealed information splits you into pieces. Divisions within your life and those of the people around you tend to pit you against yourself. In a time when relationships matter to you more than ever, you need to be your own best friend, which means operating with one agenda that is tuned to your own best interests. The eclipse comes

with the lasting message that you cannot keep secrets from yourself. You cannot divide your character, and you cannot be anyone other than who you truly are. I think from now on, this learning agenda will be a lot easier.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)
You finally seem to be making some progress on the whole "too cautious to be a passionate lover" thing. Bit by bit you are dismantling the structure that contained your desire, your curiosity and your vital force. You've come far enough in the process of setting yourself free to feel that it's possible, and you know how good it feels. It looks as if what you're doing is cutting yourself loose from the persistent guilt that always seems to have lurked around your sexual exploration. That has not stopped you from doing it, but it has slowed you down and mainly it's compromised your pleasure. The problem with guilt is that it makes a person feel as if they are wrong, which seems to validate the emotion. This is the basic con job involved, and once you know the game it's a little easier to subvert. Remember that guilt is always inserted into a person by others as a control device. I would remind you that your ancestors, right down to your parents, are entitled to a grand total of zero influence over what you do, who you do, what you like and most of all what you want.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
You finally seem to be making some progress on the whole "too cautious to be a passionate lover" thing. Bit by bit you are dismantling the structure that contained your desire, your curiosity and your vital force. You've come far enough in the process of setting yourself free to feel that it's possible, and you know how good it feels. It looks as if what you're doing is cutting yourself loose from the persistent guilt that always seems to have lurked around your sexual exploration. That has not stopped you from doing it, but it has slowed you down and mainly it's compromised your pleasure. The problem with guilt is that it makes a person feel as if they are wrong, which seems to validate the emotion. This is the basic con job involved, and once you know the game it's a little easier to subvert. Remember that guilt is always inserted into a person by others as a control device. I would remind you that your ancestors, right down to your parents, are entitled to a grand total of zero influence over what you do, who you do, what you like and most of all what you want.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)
You seem to be making up your mind how you feel about yourself. It's a complex matter, isn't it? I assure you, despite war, famine and strife, this is one of the most challenging situations that humanity faces -- how we feel about ourselves. It's made more complex when everyone from your cousin to your mother to the Audi marketing department want to get in on the game. Having misgivings about yourself makes you weak and susceptible to manipulation by any of those parties. Here is the thing: In getting strong and clear about this, you run the risk of being a little too harsh on yourself, or putting up a kind of emotional barricade to keep out certain people, and block you against feelings that don't contribute to your happiness. If you do that, you might get the feeling that you're trapped in a relationship with yourself. While it's true that your relationship to yourself is the one affair you cannot leave, feeling trapped in there is no consolation. I suggest you open the door, just a little, and let in some light and sunshine.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)
I can barely begin to imagine the ways the current astrology is manifesting for you, though the sense I have from your solar chart is that you've never felt stronger or more determined to participate in the world as a functional adult. That's just fine, as long as you keep your sense of humor. That is your

key to the humility that will remind you that you're human, and keep your Scorpio water moist and humid rather than having it all evaporate. I suggest you spend as much time as possible on The Onion's website and make sure you catch a few episodes of Stephen Colbert, someone capable of raising sarcasm to the level of inspiration. There is another side to humor, pointed out by Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, who notes that humor means taking things lightly rather than with a heavy heart. I think that these days, cultivating both forms would serve you well, particularly in writing. I always consider a bit of well-wrought comic relief, irony or a satirical eye evidence that the author was actually awake whilst typing.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)
The Sun's upcoming opposition to your ruling planet Jupiter is a moment of reckoning for you. It represents you breaking a kind of deadlock or loggerheads with yourself, and will allow a confrontation with the notion that you are somehow bound by the expectations of others. The only thing you can really be bound by are your expectations of yourself, so in one gesture you're setting free yourself and the people you care about. The thing is, you seem to be taking to heart what others say, and you're unusually susceptible to their influences at the moment. Part of what happens over the next few days is that you actually see and feel the ways in which you may have allowed yourself to be herded into a corner. Despite your persistent quest for freedom and your love for having space around you, this happens more often than you may care to admit. The first step on the way to getting out is figuring out that you're there. Then, if you can do that, the next steps may be obvious.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
You don't need to push yourself, anyone or anything as hard as you may think. There is plenty of momentum carrying you, and your boundaries are working well enough that you have no need to be defensive. In fact, you could let your guard down at the same time you ease off on the push energy, just a little. Just enough to see that you feel good relaxing into an environment that you have every reason to trust. One thing you may want to be aware of is that over the next week or two, your fantasy world (yes, your rather exotic erotic one) is about to set itself on fire, as the Sun in Sagittarius makes a series of aspects and Venus and Mars continue to dance around your chart. Your imagination may even take on a life of its own, and seem so vivid as to be real (this, I call phantasy). This is sometimes a form of astral contact and it may be that you are actually communicating with some of the people who enter your mind. I suggest you stand way back from judging anything you imagine; just let it work its wonders on you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
How are you doing with your fear of deep contact? You seem to have passed through a series of gateways recently, which have led you both closer to others and more significantly, to yourself. You cannot really yield to anyone, or yourself, if you're experiencing fear -- neither physically nor emotionally. Or said another way, if you pass through your fear and self-judgment, you can emerge surprisingly intact as yourself.

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What you are doing is dismantling inner barriers that have blocked you from your inner awareness, and trapped certain aspects of yourself within compartments that are built of what you can think of as shadow material: guilt, shame, anxiety and the fear of not being good enough. One by one these are bursting, and what's being released into your environment are little jolts of the creative and loving energy that they were containing. After a while, these bursts will give way to a steady stream of light which will not only be abundant, it will be infinite. The best thing you can do now to demonstrate this fact is to be generous with yourself and with others.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Confidence comes in a number of forms, and one of them -- perhaps the most meaningful for you -- is emotional. You understand that there is usually no basis for comparison between you and the world, though you also know there are times you feel more confident and less so. It may be annoying that you cannot always create that confidence on your own; it's best when it emerges naturally, and you seem ready to blossom over the next few days. Confidence will express itself in the form of charisma, appeal and a relaxed certainty that you are up to the mission you have taken on. How you feel about yourself is what will radiate out to the world, so the more you ease into the flow of your life, the more warmth and cooperation you will draw to you. Trust that people understand something intuitively and are willing not just to cooperate but to co-create with you. This will present you with options; when you notice them, make sure you choose what you actually want.

Read Eric Francis daily at
www.PlanetWaves.net.

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Island Epicure



By Marj Watkins

Tips for Quick, Easy Meals

This column is for Cynthia, and for anybody else who needs meals that take a minimum of prep time, and not too many ingredients. For the vegans and vegetarians among us, I suggest pasta with beans in a red sauce. The proteins in the pasta compliment and complete the proteins in the beans. All you need to go with this dish and make an easy meal is a couple of handfuls of ready-made salad greens and a bottle of your favorite dressing.

When you’re cooking for just you, cook the recipe as stated below. Eat half of it tonight, and the other half tomorrow night, or at least within the next three or four days, or freeze the other half of the recipe for later thawing and reheating in your microwave. If you’re cooking for four or five, just double the recipe

I label leftovers with the dish’s name and the date I stored it. Eat in four days or less, or else freeze.

PASTA WITH BEANS
Pasta e Faggioli
2 servings

The Sauce:
1 small yellow onion, chopped
½ green bell pepper, chopped
1 (14.5 ounce) can dice tomatoes
2 Tablespoons salsa piquante, or to taste
1 (15-ounce) can pinto or red kidney beans
Combine all ingredients. Bring to a low boil. Simmer until the onion and bell pepper are done. Keep warm while the pasta cooks.

The Pasta:
4 ounces (1/4 of a 1 pound package) spaghetti, shell noodles or other pasta
½ teaspoon salt
4 cups boiling water
2 Tablespoons olive oil or canola oil, divided

While the sauce cooks, bring the water to boil in a 6-cup saucepan. Add the salt and 1 Tablespoon oil. Add the pasta. Stir to expose all the pasta pieces to the oil in the water. Reduce the heat. Cook the number of minutes indicated on the package. Drain, transfer to a bowl. Drizzle with the other tablespoon of oil. Toss to coat all the pasta with a thin layer of oil. This keeps the pasta from sticking together

Complete the meal with a tossed salad, or a few handfuls of pre-washed spinach or salad greens topped with crumbled feta or blue cheese. Dress with vinaigrette or dressing of your choice.

Another quick meal consists of pan-fried sole, microwaved potatoes to be split and topped at the table with butter, salt and pepper or with sour cream, and a salad.



Four for Four

By Orca Annie Stateler, VHP Coordinator

4:40 AM, December 3: “Waa-sa-weh (a Tlingit greeting), K Pod! We thought we would hear from you a bit earlier, but you are always welcome.” For several days, a configuration of J Pod, K Pod, L87, and rumored other L Pod whales traveled through Puget Sound. Then K Pod returned with a few Ls to Vashon-Maury waters on December 3. VHP associates documented the encounter, first with a hydrophone recording lacking any J calls, and later in the day with outstanding vessel-



“Spock (K20) in 2004 with newborn Comet (K38). Is Spock pregnant again? Photo © Mark Sears.”

based work by Mark Sears. He obtained video of Ks with some Ls: Matriarch Baba (L26), with her daughter Ballena (L90) and son Crewser (L92).

The sleep-deprived crew at Chez VHP has recorded the Southern Residents in five out of five encounters this fall -- every time the whales did not change direction near the Fauntleroy-Vashon ferry lanes. Without the VHP effort, researchers could only speculate about where our endangered orcas go at night, or which pods roam Vashon-Maury waters in the dark. This is one way our project contributes to Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery. The VHP is in consultation to bring our hydrophone online soon so

PAN FRIED SOLE
2 to 3 servings

1 package fresh Dover sole
Dredging flour:
1/2 cup flour
¼ cup cornstarch
Salt and pepper to taste
2 Tablespoons cooking oil
Lemon wedges
Parsley for garnish, optional
Mix the flour and cornstarch on a plate. Dredge the fish filets in it, both sides. Salt and pepper them.

Heat the oil in a wide skillet. When a drop of water bounces and vanishes, the pan is hot enough. Lay the fillets in it in one layer. You may need two skillets if they are too large to fit into one pan. Cook a few seconds, until golden on the pan side. With a wide spatula, carefully turn. Sole is very tender and fast cooking, needing only a few seconds on each side.

Transfer to a platter. Garnish with lemon wedges and parsley.

Islanders can listen to it.

The VHP now has several exuberant recordings of foraging, socializing Southern Residents in which J, K and L calls are all evident – killer whale flash mobs in Dalco Pass! J and K calls predominate in our November recordings. The latest recording with calls of all three pods is from the wee hours of December 5. Sounds like the orcas were feasting on something scrumptious.

During a November 27 encounter, Mark Sears retrieved an odd specimen off Klahanie, presumably discarded by the Southern Residents. At a spot where several juvenile orcas had been cavorting, he netted a live but dazed Pacific Hake flopping at the surface. The sudden ascent from 100 fathoms (about 600 feet) did not agree with the Hake; the deep-dwelling fish’s belly ballooned from a rupturing swim bladder. Apparently, orca youngsters toyed with the hapless Hake, leaving tooth rake marks on the Cod family member. Play with a Hake Tuesday.

Hake is a desired prey resource for local pinnipeds – sea lions and seals – but Hake is not a favored food item of J, K and L Pods. Intriguingly, fish scale samples collected recently in focal follows of Southern Residents suggest that the orcas might be targeting Blackmouth (juvenile Chinook) rather than Chum salmon. Genetic analysis of the scales will verify the salmon species.

A burning question at Chez VHP: is 26-year-old Spock (K20) pregnant? In December 2004, Mark and Maya Sears discovered Spock (K20) with her first baby Comet (K38) in north Colvos Pass – see this week’s photo. When I saw K20 off Point Robinson on the 27th, her somewhat peculiar behavior led me to wonder if she might be expecting again. Her dutiful son K38, now 8 years old, was close beside her. At Loop deadline, this enticing mystery is unresolved. No researcher has had an opportunity to determine if Spock has given birth or not. Mark was unable to look at her closely on December 3.

We offer a VHP shout-out to esteemed fellow Loop writer Mary Tuel for promptly reporting orcas from the ferry on November 24. We urge other “Dorsal Spin” readers to follow her example.

Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP): REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041, as well as sick, injured, or dead marine mammals on Island beaches. Ferry riders, we want to hear from you! Reporting directly to the VHP sustains an ongoing, accurate dataset of whale sightings for Vashon-Maury and nearby Central Puget Sound waters, initiated more than 30 years ago by researcher Mark Sears. Check for updates at Vashonorcas.org and send photos to Orca Annie at Vashonorcas@aol.com.

December 6 ‘12

“Merry Christmas” from our Church to our Schools

By Mike Ivaska

This time of year, most of us are celebrating the holidays in some fashion or other. Some of us do Christmas, some of us do Hanukah, some of us celebrate the winter season itself, and still others have their own holidays and traditions. At Vashon Island Community Church, this is a time of year for us to celebrate and remember the gift of God’s love for the world, the peace of God found in Jesus Christ. It’s a season of gift giving and generosity, as we celebrate the gifts of a generous and loving God.

In the spirit of the Christmas season, Vashon Island Community Church wants to share some love and hospitality to the island school community – particularly the parents and faculty of McMurray and Chautauqua, our across-the-street neighbors, who daily drive in and out of the schools’ driveways. On Wednesday December 12 from 7am-9am we will be hosting a FREE

Coffee and Pastries Drive-Thru featuring coffee and pastries from island businesses, including Bob’s Bakery. We will have hot water for tea and cocoa, pump pots full of good coffee, and tasty pastries and sweets. You won’t even have to get out of your car!

At a time in history marked by division and distrust, the holiday season is an invitation to stop and be thankful for all that we have, and to show generosity toward one another in love. So if you’re a parent dropping off your child, a teacher heading to class, or a school staff member or volunteer heading into work, take a “Loop” through our driveway and grab yourself some breakfast!

God bless.

Mike Ivaska is one of the pastors of Vashon Island Community Church (“VICC”). VICC is located on Cemetery Road directly across from Chautauqua and McMurray.

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The Road To Resilience

Continued from Page 1

time of the year in more ways than one. We may:

- Not have any spare cash,
- Not want to give something stupid just to fulfill the requirement,
- Not be able to afford the gift we would really like to give,
- Just not be able to think of something that a particular person might want, or
- Like to make something special for everybody but just don’t have the time

or the confidence that you could make something worth giving.

If that describes your plight, believe me, I’m there with you! Here is how I see it:

- First of all, cut yourself some major slack.
- This “giving to everybody at the same time” thing is rigged.
- Giving does not have to involve spending money.
- You are the gift! Go out of your way to be a jolly force to be reckoned with wherever you go and do what you do best. Even if you are eating someone else’s hors d’oeuvres, your presence will be appreciated and no one will be wondering how and when you are going to reciprocate in kind. It is always much easier to give than it is to receive, so, you see, you are

doing the hard part!

You may be a good cook, a musician, an accountant, or maybe you just dig great ditches. Promise to make something or do something that you do for each person. You don’t have to have it or do it now, better to spread it over the year. You may be able to teach somebody a little of what you do. That gives you quality time with that person and gives them a task done, a skill, or the start of one. You might just say to each: “You have three hours of my time during which I will do a task or share a skill sometime in the coming year.”

If we all did that, we would begin rebuilding the rudiments of a real gift economy. The more moneyless exchanges we make, the less money we need, the more everybody has, and the closer we are to a really resilient, sharing community. Giving is really too good a thing to just reserve it for Christmas and birthdays.

Also, look for the initiation of the Vashon Community Timebank, a labor and resource sharing system that is being set up by Welcome Vashon. Another moneyless exchange system for us to use.

Comments?
terry@vashonloop.com

Positively Speaking

The Christmas Jacket:

By Deborah H. Anderson



Saturdays are definitely for appointment radio switching between KPLU and KUOW . It’s a lovely way to spend a day doing chores or relaxing with some knitting.

Wonderfully funniest things I heard from said engagements recently...

“Wait a minute....Washington has just legalized marijuana and TWINKIES is going out of business ??!? Couldn’t they have waited a month? Business would have been great!”

Let me get this straight...the head of the CIA couldn’t cover up his affair?!? He was right to resign!”

There’s something about December that causes my focus to look for two things: humour and miracles.

It’s been a while and someone requested I repeat the story of the Christmas Jacket, our family’s favourite story with both humour and a miracle.

\Here goes...there’s a cottage on the west side in Beulah Park where Caity and I spent a memorable winter. I was working the drive thru window at Dairy Queen. She was being a 4th grader. Isaac was in Europe. Chris was floating in and out and actually came for Christmas Day that year. Joe had gone to live with his birthmother for a while.

Caity and I were both secretly very sad and terrified most of the time but we are two ‘silk purses out of sow’s ear’s’ kinda people and so we kept having ‘adventures’. Like plugging the Audi in every night through the bathroom window to keep the block warm =or some such= and the kitten we were given that promptly began bleeding internally and then ran off presumably to die.

This particular Christmas did not bode well for traditional expressions of gift giving. I had literally nothing. There would be no Christmas gifts for Caity and I this year. I thought of an article I read in Guidepost one time where a family went through the Sears catalog and cut out and wrapped up presents they would give if they had money. That was kinda sorta my plan.

In life’s irony, I have, until just weeks ago when I changed my values a bit, always volunteered for things using my professional skills even when I wasn’t making enough to live on. So at the time I was volunteering for PTSA and as such would regularly and faithfully attend every school board meeting.

Caity wanted a very specific set of gifts that year. At the top of the list was a winter jacket in teal and purple. I had not yet presented an alternative experience to her. I was waiting until the

last possible moment hoping there would be a Christmas bonus from my employer at the eleventh hour. This was the year Caity was deciding about Santa Claus. Poverty was going to prove the issue to the negative.

The school board meeting was over and a woman approached me and said, “I have some things out in my car. I was headed to donate them to the toy drive and during the meeting was thinking maybe you could use them.”

For those of you who are very independent and have had to accept or worst yet, ask for help in financial lack, you know what mixed feelings I had at that moment. Because of Caity I said yes. Any parent can go without forever but if your kids are involved, one moves heaven and earth and swallows any kind of pride for them to know the best you can provide them. That means saying yes to donations.

She opened the trunk and started pulling through the bags. A little spinner of a Christmas tree that when you pushed the little latchy thingy revealed a little something on the inside. Some art supplies, some other trinkets and do dads. Perfume I think. And then she pulled it out.....a winter jacket in teal and purple with the exact design and company logo she wanted.

Yea.. I’m crying right now. I cried then. I cry every time I see that jacket hanging in the closet. The last move Caity asked me if I was ever going to get rid of it. No , I won’t. It is the reminder that no matter what my circumstances look like God loves me and is working behind the scenes to make things the best they can be for me and my children.

Christmas morning she kept saying to me , ‘You’re Santa Clause aren’t you Mommy?’ And I could say with all authority in heaven and on earth.”Caity I tell you the absolute truth. I had nothing to do with you receiving that jacket.” Well... I did hope for a miracle. Sometimes that is enough and all you can do.

Buy what you want this season, but can I make a suggestion? Get things that will remind the receiver they are loved by God. Be a miracle maker this season. Listen to the still small voice within and gift accordingly.

Happy Holidays,
Love,
Deborah



STUART LITTLE

Free Family Film Series Sunday 9th December 1:30 PM @ the Vashon Theatre. All Seats FREE!! The Little movie with big heart. Come have a holiday break together. Limited number, first come, first served free treat meal boxes for those on free and reduced lunch program donated by PTSA. Please contact your school counselor. Movie sponsored by LGC Educational Services

Fall Prevention Open House

Friday, December 7th, 10am to 4:30pm at Vashon Community Care

Each year in the U.S., one of three people 65 years or older, fall and experience life-threatening injuries. Attend our free Open House to learn preventative measures and what to do if you fall.

These informative presentations begin at 1pm:

Vashon Island Fire & Rescue: How your home may be contributing to your risk of falling.

VCC Rehab Services: Are you likely to fall? Learn how home safety and fall prevention assessments can help decrease your chances of falling.

FREE

- Balance screening tests
- Blood pressure checks
- Medication reviews
- Comprehensive fall risk assessment
- Guests entered into a raffle drawing.

GRANNY'S ATTIC THRIFT SHOP

Operated by Vashon Health Center Volunteers

The Giving Tree at Granny's Attic. For your donation of cash or a check, Granny's will provide a gift certificate of equal amount to Vashon Youth and Family Services, who will give the certificate to an in-need family so they can shop for Christmas presents at Granny's. Where your dollar buys more!

Granny's Fun Fact #66

You can find Granny's Attic on Facebook

Just search for

"Granny's Attic Thrift Shop"

Be sure to Like Us!

Granny's is located at Sunrise Ridge 10030 SW 210th st, Vashon Island 206-463-3161 www.grannysattic.org

Retail Hours: Tues/Thurs/Sat 10-5

Donations Hours: 7 days a Week! 8-4pm

Advertise in the Loop!

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Subaqueous opens for Avaaza

Vashon Island--Avaaza, (Ah-Va-ZAH) the newest world music ensemble to emerge from the vibrant music scene on Vashon Island will bring their signature sound and danceable beats to the Red Bicycle Bistro on December 8th at 8:30PM.

Opening for Avaaza will be Subaqueous with special guest Sartori Laurel. Subaqueous is a solo music project of Isaac Cotec. The music has incorporated beat science to create progressive mid tempo and dance music. Using melodic techniques and musical theory to add layers to the experience.

Subaqueous has worked with amazing talent from all over the world and has played with big acts like Bluetech, Iawake, and Jamie Janover. Subaqueous first album was the number one Downtempo album on bandcamp for 2 months straight and continues to be high on the midtempo charts.

Isaac Cotec started making electronic based music in the summer of 2005 working with



a project called Psyche Sonics. Psyche Sonics is an experimental group working with binaural beats and altering consciousness through sounds. The Project traveled in a large yurt that moved around the PNW on tour as a musical Art instillation. It was featured in such festivals as Beloved, Emerg+n+see, Oracle Gatherings, and others.

After touring with his experimental and ambient based project Isaac Cotec continued to make music and grow as a musician. As of March 12th 2011 the unique character and sound of Subaqueous was born.

The performance is free and all-ages (until 11:00). Saturday December 8, 8:30 p.m. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Alaska Native Artist at Vashon Woodworks for Island Studio Tour

This weekend, December 8 - 9, award-winning Tlingit artist Odin Lonning is at Vashon Woodworks on Bank Road, Stop #6 on Vashon Island Art Studio Tour. Other talented artists in this group were profiled in the November 21 issue of The Loop. Odin's Northwest Coast Native pieces include painted drums as well as carved panels, boxes, and sculptural items. Odin donates proceeds from his holiday art sales to benefit Wolftown's Wildlife Rehab and the Vashon Hydrophone Project's whale research and marine mammal stranding response.



"Lovebirds: Eagle & Raven" elkhide drum, © Odin Lonning, Tlingit.

Serving up Charity Vashon Style

Continued from Page 10

chock full of sex appeal.

Guest Bartender Night gives Islanders the chance to give it a shot. Charities can send their Island celebrity to tend bar for a night while the organizations bring in all their supporters to socialize. It is an opportunity to support our island's Do Gooders and have fun too.

Each second Thursday of the month, a charity will be featured for Guest Bartender Night of the Month. Ten percent of the specialty drink sales will go to the charity. Donation jars will be set up around the bar, and restaurant checks will include an opportunity to write in an amount to go to the charity that patrons can charge to their credit cards. The Hardware Store also makes a financial contribution to the organization. In addition to the allure of the 'celebrity bartender,' some charities will take the opportunity to sell their merchandise or hold a raffle as ways to leverage the event's potential.

With the cold weather and holidays upon us, the Food Bank was chosen as the December Charity and the Washington State Fairies agreed to be the guest bartenders. Approximately 15% of Islanders utilize the Food Bank regularly. When heaters go on and utility bills skyrocket, less money is available for groceries. The Food Bank is a vital resource. According to Yvonne Pitroff, Executive Director of the Vashon Food Bank, nearly all the organization's financial donations come in the months of November and December. In order to be financially sustainable, the Food Bank has to closely steward those funds to ensure they can get through the months when funding is not coming in.

The October Guest Bartender was Voice of Vashon, who reportedly raised approximately \$700. As of November 2012, Guest Bartender Night will

"Children cannot bounce off the walls if we take away the walls"

© Erin Kenny

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Loose Change

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Compost the Loop

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

be produced by Vashon Events with the Hardware Store Restaurant. For more information, or to book your charity for an upcoming month, contact vashonevents@gmail.com or call 206-463-0501.

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

FOR ORCAS AND FOR ISLANDERS PLEASE REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO

206-463-9041

Vashon Hydrophone Project

Orca Annie Stateler and Mark Sears

Vashonorcas@aof.com

Support Vashon-Maury Island Whale Research Sightings NOT Disclosed to Whale Watch Boats

vashonorcas.org

Posse Impossible with Erik Reimnitz

Posse Impossible blends funk, rock and hip hop with a hint of Balkan folk into a bouncy, big-beat band that will be sure to get you moving. In late 2009, bass player Brian Forsythe (Little Big Man) and drummer Gabriel Blake (Trolls Cottage) began their musical collaboration in a cabin on Vashon Island. Now based in Seattle, Posse Impossible features the clever rhymes of vocalist Simon Hathaway-Spurlock, hypnotizing rhythms of percussionist Guido Perla (Little Big Man, The Prospect) and Balkan melodies of guitarist Neri Osmanovic (More of Anything), a talented player from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Check out the impossible-ness!

Opening for Posse will be Erik Reimnitz, bass player for Trolls Cottage



and all around super nice guy!
The performance is free and all-ages (until 11:00). Friday, December 21, 9:30 p.m. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Drama Dock Youth Theatre Initiative announces auditions!

Auditions for two One Act plays: The Long Christmas Dinner & Pullman Car Hiawatha by Thornton Wilder on December 8th at 4 pm and/or December 9th at 6 pm at Ober Park Performance Space. This is a Drama Dock Youth Theatre Initiative production for student actors between the ages of 11 and 19 years of age. Please prepare a 30 to 60 second serious monologue. There is a \$75 participation Fee and Membership in Drama Dock is required. Some Scholarships are available for the participation fee. Performances will be January 25, 26 & 27 at the Vashon High School Theatre. Please bring a parent or guardian with you to the auditions to help fill out and sign the application form! For more information contact Elizabeth Ripley: riple13000@gmail.com

VAA debuts *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

Continued from Page 1
She lauds co stage directors Sue Wiley and Pam Hotchkiss, former students and of course parents of the actors/singers. Tessa Paw stage manages and Max Lopusznski will run lights. Moms Christy Jones and Danielle Bernheisel head up costumes, which Ericksen says ring true to the book, simple and kitschy, from tinfoil and tablecloths to cardboard and masking tape. Many other parents participate in rehearsals, brings snacks and help with front of house during performances.

Join the fun and bring the kids to this family-friendly holiday romp.
Special thanks to Paul Colwell and friends and all who attended Fam Jam, an event that contributed scholarship funds toward VAA Musical Theatre program.

Tickets, \$7/\$10 are available at VAA, Heron's Nest, Vashon Bookshop and VashonAlliedArts.org

Drama Dock Brings An Old Favorite

Continued from Page 1
Written by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, and Capra himself, with additional scenes by Jo Swerling, the film and subsequent radio play were based on "The Greatest Gift," an original short story first written on a Christmas card by Philip Van Doren Stern. Uncredited for their work on the script were Dorothy Parker, Dalton Trumbo, and Clifford Odets.
It's A Wonderful Life opens Fri, Dec 21 at 7:30 pm, plays on Sat, Dec 22 at 7:30 and Sun, Dec 23 at 2 pm. The show continues with 7:30 pm performances on Wed, Dec 26 thru Sat, Dec 29, and closes matinee at 2 pm on Sun, Dec 30. Tickets are available at vashonalliedarts.org, the Vashon Book Shop, The Blue Heron Art Center and The Heron's Nest. General admission: \$20, Drama Dock members: \$15, General Youth & Senior: \$10, Drama Dock Youth and Senior Members: \$7.50.

Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is
Friday, December 14

Comedy Night - An Evening Featuring all Female Comedians

A Benefit for the Dove Project

Vashon Island never used to be funny. You know this is true; you have been to the Heritage Museum. But over the past few years, Vashon has become a comedy juggernaut. Four or five times a year.

This is one of those times, and after nine straight male-dominated shows, we're dropping the mic...into the smooth, lotion-filled hands of the ladies. Janet McAlpin will be our mistress of ceremonies for THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID: AN EVENING of STANDUP COMEDY by WOMEN.

The show will feature headliners Leah Mansfield and Shannon Whaley and the always less predictable but usually more consequential sets from that group of local luminaries willing to lose whatever credibility they might have had in this community by stepping up on the boards themselves to make us laugh.

This night we have enlisted the help of the inimitable barista Anna Sweezey, provider of coffee with an attitude; Maria Glanz, the star of See Me Naked, who says she will be appearing with only her wit exposed; the playwright responsible for Spellbound: A Musical Play on Words, Mindy WoManley Little; and the one woman star of the one-woman show Bozophobia, one woman, Susan Harris.

All of this and the chance to help the

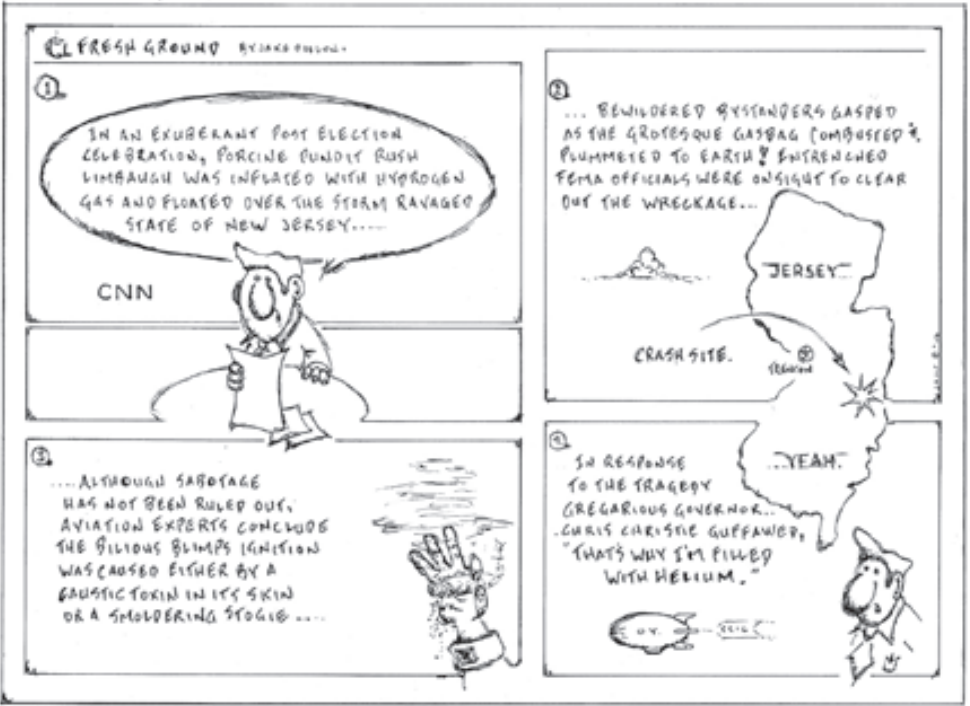


Leah Mansfield

DoVE Project. Seriously, we all know that women on this island never like to say anything aloud or really communicate at all, but they must be thinking something. Come find out.

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID will take place at the Red Bicycle Bistro and Sushi Bar on Friday night, December 14th at 8pm. This show will be a benefit for Vashon's DoVE Project, an agency that assists survivors of domestic violence. Tickets \$10.

Friday December 14, 8 p.m. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959



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Vashon Theatre

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For show times and info check
www.vashontheater.com


Next Edition
of The Loop
Comes out
Thursday,
December 20

Deadline for the next
edition of The Loop is
Friday, December 14

Loopy Laffs

The Loop printed the wrong V.I.P.S Strip in the last issue. This issue you get two new V.I.P.S !

LOGJAM



BY Jeff Hawley



Lots of holiday gift selections:
Painted Ponies, Calendars,
Clothing (much of it 50% off!),
Jewelry, Towels & Linens,
Saddle Pads, Horse Blankets,
Helmets, Toys, Books and
Games...Plus much more! Shop
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Lounge is Open
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Live Entertainment
December 8, 8:30pm
Avaaza

December 14, 8pm
Dove Project Comedy Benefit

December 21, 9:30pm
Posse Impossible

December 28, 8:30pm
Bill Brown & the Kingbees

V.I.P.S.

As it becomes increasingly
POLITICALLY CORRECT
to say "SEASON'S
GREETINGS" instead of
"MERRY CHRISTMAS", a
new SUPERHERO
arises...
MEET MERRY
CHRISTMAS MAN
(OR WOMAN) !!



M.C. Man moves through the Christmas
holiday landscape bringing season's
greetings to the unsuspecting by yelling,
spontaneously and anonymously,
"MERRY CHRISTMAS" !!



... ONLY TO GET THE EXPECTED REACTION...
STOP THAT insensitive,
POLITICALLY-INCORRECT
N'E'RE-DO-WELL !!



V.I.P.S.

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feast with a truly unique Island ENTREE'.
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RACCOON !!!



I WAS JUST JOKING !
IT'S REALLY A TURKEY ...
SEE !!



MAN! I SURE AM
POINTY-HEADED!



BUT IT'S O.K.



I ROCK THE SANTA HAT!

