

Strained Gnats

By Steve Amos

Freedom is a very expensive thing in every possible way you might define the word “expensive”. It’s expensive financially, socially, philosophically, and politically. At least.

But that’s okay because in America, freedom is our thing, our shtick, our raison d’être.

Tragically, confounding and confusing our attempts to actually DO freedom is that it’s very difficult to get a firm grip on what freedom actually IS. Freedom, apparently, is slippery. Which I guess accounts for how anyone could say we were “... conceived in liberty and dedicated the proposition that all men are created equal” while institutionalizing slavery and denying basic citizenship rights to women. Oops.

And wouldn’t you know it, there’s no race memory when it comes to understanding the complexities and nuances of freedom, never mind a clear understanding of exactly what it is you have to do to keep a good, firm grip on it. With the advent of every new generation, everything that we’ve learned about freedom goes right out the window and we have to start over from scratch. Which also means that, with each new generation, we have the opportunity to get it wrong again and to be exposed to the risk of having the definition of freedom co-opted by ideologues seeking to further their own policy agendas. Or simply casually throwing our freedoms away because we didn’t realize how important they were. Oops again.

A particularly onerous lesson which must be constantly relearned are the inherent dangers of becoming overly enamored with efficiency or political expediency or the delightful political fun of social engineering. Such guilty

pleasures almost always come at a direct cost in freedom.

Personally, I’d have to say that such subtle notions are lost on our current collective mentality.

I’ll use a personal experience to illustrate my point.

I am one of the lucky winners of the Seattle ticket-in-the-mail anti-lottery for going too fast through a school zone. Apparently, I went shrieking through a school zone at a blistering 26 miles an hour. Counting penalties and processing fees, that’s about a \$200 ticket. No warnings for me, evidently.

On the face of it, all seems right with the world. A person should not go speeding through a school zone even if “speeding” is a 6-mph medium jog over the speed limit. (I do have to admit that my perverse, reflexively rebellious side wishes I had gotten more speeding value for my lawbreaking dollar.) Self-righteous people everywhere, rejoice. And, my personal \$200 financial tragedy aside, the problem of people speeding through school zones is evidently epidemic because I share my fate with some 6,000 other folk similarly nailed in recent weeks.

So this must be a good thing, right? Scofflaws getting their just desserts, wholesale, and safer kids busting out all over. What could possibly be wrong with that?

Glad you asked.

Firstly, the evidentiary bar has been dropped through the floor.

The “evidence” against me is a photograph with descriptive text indicating the date/time and my speed and a statement from the operating officer declaring that it’s all true. Setting the officers credibility aside for

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Holiday Concert and Fundraiser for the Vashon Maury Food Bank



Joe Jencks will perform with Kat Eggleston and Kate MacLeod, Saturday 29, at 7:30pm at Bethel Church.

This event, in it’s third year running, is a benefit for the Vashon Maury Food Bank, organized by the music duo Kat Eggleston and Kate MacLeod. This year the duo has invited special guest Joe Jencks to add his beautiful vocal and instrumental work to the event. The event accepts non-perishable food items and monetary donations in any form. Search your cabinets for a can of chili or a box of pasta, empty your change jar, bring your check book, but most of all bring your generous spirit and join in on the post-Christmas fun. In the spirit of community please come hear the

music even if you feel you can’t afford to donate.

The musicians will perform their original music, adding renditions of holiday and solstice music. Kat Eggleston, native of Vashon Island, has performed internationally and has recorded several CDs of her own material. She has also accompanied many of the finest musicians on the folk circuit including David Munnely and the Irish group Bohola. Kate MacLeod is parttime on the island these days, with an active traveling schedule. Kate’s highly acclaimed songs often precede

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Road to Resilience The Season

By Terry Sullivan, Transition Vashon

We all recognize, if not celebrate, the darkest time of the year and the returning of the light. I think that we clothe it with religious or some sort of spiritual significance to emphasize its natural, temporal nature and to set our sites on the return of light and life. The early Christians set the birth of Christ at this time for the obvious symbolic significance of the winter solstice, which has inspired all other religious traditions through the ages.

For me, it is a time to be snug and warm inside with a good book, or family and friends, but also, I have to admit that I have to deal with a bit of depression, the so called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Contrary to what I’ve expected, I’m finding that spending more time out in that cold wet dark (CWD) actually helps. I realize that it isn’t all dead out there; there are seasonal birds, the little brown wrens that hop busily about in the bushes, the clear straight tones of the Varied Thrushes, the Ravens that seem to be more and more populous, and then the ducks. If those ducks can sit and dangle their bony little feet all day

in that cold water with obvious pleasure and contentment, then surely I can find a way to enjoy some part of it, or all of it, as well. When I go out in late afternoon, it is never as dark as it looks from the brightly lit inside.

It never ceases to amaze me how utterly fragile and wimpy we seem compared to all the plants and animals that live and thrive unshielded in what nature has to offer them at any time of year. The deer, with their skinny legs and thin coats, live day after day in conditions that would do most of us in in a week, or maybe even a day!

I suspect that much of our wimpiness is in fact a result of our superior ingenuity in learning how to make ourselves as comfortable as possible in all conditions. I think it was the party of Captain Cook that went ashore at Tierra Del Fuego at the southernmost tip of South America in the peak of winter. The indigenous people of that area went about in fur robes with no buttons or ties. When they needed to do something, they simply dropped their robe exposing

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Water District 19 Commission Proposes New Master Policy Resolution

The Water District 19 Commissioners, staff and lawyers have been working for 3 years to consolidate a multitude of policy resolutions into one master resolution governing the District’s operating policies. Advised by the District’s lawyers to do so, the Commission has recently completed the consolidation after the review of nearly 1200 resolutions dating back to 1925. The forty page draft master resolution is available for public review at the Vashon public library, at the District Office, and on line at www.water19.com. The Commission plans to vote on acceptance of the master resolution at the District’s next regularly-scheduled meeting, January 8, 2013.

“We didn’t intend the review process to result in any notable policy changes,” said Commission President Steve Haworth. “We simply wanted to review our spate of resolutions, issued over

many decades; to be sure we eliminated any possible contradictions, removed obsolete resolutions, and clarified our rules and regulations into one accessible document.”

The new mater resolution contains only two minor changes in policy that were suggested in the process of reviewing old resolutions. These changes are:

1)Waiting List Policy: When the District offers a water service connection to people on the waiting list for new water, they have 30 days to respond affirmatively and 120 days to pay the new connection fee. Otherwise they will be eliminated from the waiting list. This is intended to facilitate people on the list to get connections in an expeditious manner. [Article III, paragraph iv (a)]

2)New Service Connection – Residential: Out-buildings on a property

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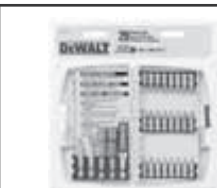
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Submissions to the Loop

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.

Sci-Fi Saturday

On January 5th at 1:30pm “The Wrath of Khan” will show at The Vashon Theatre. This is one of the best of the Star Trek series and is a whole lot of fun. A donation will be taken at the box office and food doantions are taken inside the theatre.

Please, come and have a good time.

This is for The Chicken Soup Brigade so bring your donations to the box office and I'll see you inside!Where: The Island Theatre

When : January 5, 1:30pm

How much: Some canned food or boxed food items. \$10.00 at the box. More is better. :>)

What: Chicken Soup Brigade.

A food drive for those living with HIV/ADIS in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

See you at the theatre!

Chorale pre-registration for all singers

The Vashon Island Chorale will hold pre-registration for all singers on Saturday, Dec. 29 from 10am to noon and on Thursday, Jan. 3 from 5-6pm. Both will take place at the Vashon Book Shop. Dues are \$50 and music costs are \$20. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 7 to 9:15pm in the VHS band room with concerts on April 13 & 14. See www.vashonislandchorale.org for music program and other information.

Winter Sunrise

*Another day is breaking,
We wake to grieve and mourn.
Again the world is aching
For twenty children born*

*Who lost too soon their chance to live,
To err, to learn, to grow,
To find out love they had to give,
Or things they burned to know.*

*Their imprint lingers near,
Perhaps their spirits too
Are hovering close to those most dear
To will the world a clue.*

*I watch the sunrise softly speak.
He bathes the mountain high
In whispered rose for those who seek
Their answer from the sky.*

By Rowena Hammill

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Recycle your Christmas Lights

Getting ready to put up your lights? But they no longer work? Do Not Throw them away! Puget Sound Energy - PSE Patti- has agreed to collect these lights for us. They will be taken to Tacoma for recycling.

So drop off these good for nothing lights at the PSE office on Vashon Highway just south of Kathy's Corner.

Thanks all for keeping one more thing out of the landfill.



Island rumor telling at its worst

By the time this story is printed many people will know the loss of our fellow Islander, musician, and good hearted soul Steve Saul. Of course there is something bigger than rumors to be dealt with here.....Mrs Saul's grieving the loss of her son. And it is exactly this that causes me to write this story.

Dorothy Saul invited myself and my wife to go to her recently deceased Son's home so we could help her find important documents, and take an inventory of valuables as some items appeared to be missing from the home after less than 48 hours since Steve's passing. During this time we took pictures of valuables and tried to comfort a woman who's Son just passed.

After being in the home with Dorothy only two hours a person from the Island Funeral Service showed up and told my wife and I we needed to leave the property immediately or the police would be called. I asked the representative to call the police as we were at the home by request of Steve's mother. We did go outside the dwelling and waited for Mrs. Saul to come out, but left after a while so as not to cause any discomfort for Dorothy.

Once we were out of the home, the Island Funeral Service representative began telling Dorothy that my wife and I were KNOWN thieves and were only there to "rob her blind". She told Dorothy that I had a long and publicly known history of theft, drugs and violence. Dorothy called me immediately to inform me of what was said, I immediately called the owner of the Funeral Service to discuss this, and how it would be dealt with.

While I know that the rumor

chain is "just part of island life" it is my intention here to share what sort of damage can be done by rumor telling people who seem to do this as a way of making their miserable little lives less painful. Unfortunately the victim here was this poor woman who just lost her son. I on the other hand know the truth, and have nothing to hide.

As a side note, I am trying to work with the Island Chamber to put together a benefit concert which would donate ALL proceeds to Wolf Town. One of the chamber personnel pulled me aside last week and told me that the same sort of rumor was told to them as well. I guess my question is simple.....when will these bored and possibly less than intelligent folks figure out that these are all lies? Do I need to publish my criminal record to prove that I am not what the rumors include, or should I just let these poor unfortunate souls have something to make them feel better about themselves? It might just be the only thing which gives them happiness.

In short I would ask (once again) why people tolerate this habitual and sophomoric habit which runs rampant in our community. Don't people ever think about the ramifications like in this case where a vendetta was played out at the worst time possible for the grieving?

I did ask the owner of this business to get involved, and suggested that legal action may well result should a resolution not quickly come to light, the only resolution I can think of is that the offending party be terminated from their job, and a public apology be given to this person who was victimized.

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Math Team Takes 2nd Place in Math Competition



Photo (left to right): Mira Jewell-Peterson (8th), Nick Spranger (7th), Stuart Kraabel (7th), Kieran Enzian (7th), coach Nathan Enzian, Jacob Gold (7th), Rhea Enzian (8th), David Nguyen (8th), and Oakley Reid (8th).

Harbor School 7th and 8th graders competed at the Washington State “Math Is Cool” Tournament in Moses Lake on Saturday, December 1st. Harbor School’s 7th grade team took 2nd Place for Division II schools in Washington State, and the 8th grade team tied for 8th place.

Congratulations to the following Harbor School students for all their hard work and talent. Harbor School parent Nathan Enzian coached the students in preparation for the event.

7th Grade Team: Kieran Enzian, Jacob Gold, Stuart Kraabel and Nick Spranger
8th Grade Team: Rhea Enzian, Mira Jewell-Peterson, David Nguyen and Oakley Reid

Santa Visits Nirvana Sunday

Santa Claus will make a special visit to Nirvana restaurant this Sunday from 10am to 2pm. Kids of all ages, from babes in arms to senior citizens, are invited to enjoy the festivities including free photos with Santa, special treats, Holiday songs and more.

Nirvana will also be offering their Sunday all-you-can-eat buffet brunch from 9am to 2pm and kids under ten eat free. After Santa’s visit to Nirvana, dinner begins at 5pm with a new Winter menu and special Kids menu. More about Santa’s visit Sunday and New Year’s Eve reservations at www.nirvanavashon.com.



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**Vashon
High School
Live Sports
Broadcasts**

VoiceOfVashon.org

By Richard Rogers

Voice of Vashon has been broadcasting the Vashon High School Pirates baseball, football, and basketball games live this year. Kevin Linnell and John Yates are announcing the basketball games this winter.

Kevin Linnell, who handles color commentary, says “I had been talking with John Yates about doing broadcast of Vashon sports events for seven years.” We travelled to state tournaments to watch Vashon teams play and many small communities were broadcasting the games to their hometowns. We thought why not do this for Vashon.” This past summer they got their chance when VHS varsity football coach Andy Sears asked if they would be interested in announcing fall games. Kevin recalls “We said yes right away because we really wanted to do this to generate community support for our local sports teams.”

John Yates, who does play-by-play, is very enthusiastic about the broadcasts and has a personal interest because his son Sam plays on the varsity football team this year. Yates credits many individuals at Voice of Vashon for making the live broadcasts possible. “Dan Schueler has

really put a ton of effort to make the technical side work for us. And Michael Golen-Johnson is invaluable back at the station to make the live feeds available on Voice of Vashon’s web radio station. Michael also adds to the commentary by asking us key questions about what’s happening on the court.” Yates, who is owner of Vashon True Value, and Linnell, who is the general manager, felt so strongly about announcing the games for the community they even purchased their own broadcast-quality headsets.

Preben Martin, who grew up on Vashon Island and is sports broadcast director with ESPN since 1997, was instrumental in creating a team of volunteers to make the live broadcasts possible. Preben had imagined bringing his professional sports broadcasting expertise to Island sports and mentioned his idea to Voice of Vashon. A meeting ensued that led to baseball, football and basketball games being streamed live at www.VoiceOfVashon.org. The first games to be broadcast were high school baseball games last summer with Jeff Hoyt and Lance Morgan announcing.

Preben envisions including more sporting events such as women’s soccer

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and volleyball, in the future and creating a mentorship program where students can learn from broadcast professionals. He says “We tried play-by-play some years ago but it was a challenge to get going. Now I’m excited about the potential to make it happen because there’s a better structure in place and a lot of talented people involved.”

Jean Bosch, new president of VoV, is very excited by how this partnership has developed. “It really is Island-powered media” she commented. “Voice of Vashon exists to support islanders in producing this kind of great programming. We hope it grows.”

The next game will be boys and girls varsity basketball at Bellevue Christian

School on Friday, December 21. The girls’ team plays at 6pm and the boys’ team is set to tip off at 8pm. You can listen to the games broadcast live by tuning into Voice of Vashon’s web radio station at www.VoiceOfVashon.org.

Voice of Vashon also has plans for a new web platform to be launched next year. Jean Bosch says “We are in the process of creating a new website to combine community content contributions we now receive into one media hub to make it easy for Islanders to access them. It will include everything from 1650AM emergency alerts, social media, live sports broadcasts to jazz shows, community meetings and live performances.”

Island Life

An Unexpected Journey

by Peter Ray

It seems that one is constantly being reminded of the life paradox that the more you know, the more you seemingly don't know. I, for instance, had no idea that I was to blame for the economic woes at the Vashon Park District (VPD) until I attended the latest (at this writing) meeting at Ober Park. But it wasn't just me, but all of you share the blame as well, except for the average of two people that used to attend these meetings before all heck broke loose. In a long soliloquy voiced by board chairman Bill Ameling

(and posted here on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNyIN3d-WD0>), the implication, or aspersion, that I grasped as a takeaway from this was that we were all to blame for VPD's problems because we hadn't shown up to keep an eye on what was transpiring there, even though many of us had indeed voted these board members into their positions, trusting they would do the right thing with our property tax monies and our faith in their abilities.

As it is, my combined takeaway from the four meetings I've attended since this all blew up is that even if I had been showing up previously, the board would have not listened to anything I might have said regarding the fields project, as they don't seem to listen to any of the well meaning attendees that now populate these meetings. That being said, I decided to do my own fields survey to try and understand at least some of what was going on.

First, I drove to the new VES field which is at the center of this controversy. It was surrounded by chain link fence, and the only apparent entrance was spanned by a chain and padlock. I did not go in. I then travelled to Agren Park, where a sign at the edge of the field indicated the space was closed to any activity because of adverse weather-related conditions. I then went to what many refer to as the horse park on Paradise Ridge. There was a new cover on the arena that I hadn't seen before, and a wide flat area that seemed like it could have been considered a candidate for at least one sports field. From there I went down to the skate part, or B.A.R.C., and found a large, flat space that seemed like it could have accommodated at least two play fields with minimal grading, in spite of the fact that the artist's rendition posted there indicating future park plans showed a paved, outdoor skating oval and a topographic feature designated as a "knoll", both potentially occupying this space in concept. I then drove to the LDS Church, because at the parks meeting I learned for the first time, as did many others judging by the overall reaction, that VPD had made an arrangement with the church to maintain and use their baseball field while the new fields were being constructed. I did not know that this field even existed, but the two deer I interrupted during my brief visit there obviously knew it well, and stared me down from either end of the field until I left, as if I had barged in on some private frisbee toss they had been enjoying prior to my entrance.

From there I paid a visit to the Parks office and Susan McCabe, who to my mind is the voice of reason in all of this- it's too bad she is leaving. She labeled the current situation a perfect storm of economic poo-poo, which I felt said it as well as anything I've heard. Part of my confusion in all of this has been a search for

the why, as in: why was this project even considered a good idea in the first place? To this she answered with rough numbers: 400 soccer players, 200-300 baseball players, 150 lacrosse players. Between the leagues and the schools, the fields were getting beaten to the point that they were becoming unusable. She also said that if I were looking for some kind of nefarious (my word) motivation behind the fields project I wouldn't find one. She said that it was her impression that the intent behind the creation of this fields complex was as a gift to the community and the future, as well as to accommodate the increasing need for more fields.

From there I went shopping for windshield wiper blades, which in retrospect contained an irony of sorts, as the stop wound up enhancing the clarity of more than one view. As it turned out, a friend there had read my last column and let on that he was a soccer coach. He said that while it was funky and at times sporting some pot holes possibly left by digging dogs, the old fields at the new fields location were quite useable, if not necessarily perfect. He also said that it used to be policy that when it rained and the fields got too wet they would practice in the gym. This cut way down on the destruction of the fields. He did mention that over the last three years, a relaxing of the indoor practice policy may have led to greater field wear during wet times. The word from Susan McCabe was that the indoor practice policy is still in effect, and to reduce wear and tear on walls and bleachers, a milder form of soccer known as Futsal is played for indoor practice. My coach friend did say that there had been no loud and extensive clamor for new and better fields by the coaches, that he recalled. The coaches and players are however quite pleased with what they have seen of the new facility. He did mention that he remembered hearing one loud voice advocating from early on in this mess for the new fields, and that voice belonged to David Hackett.

It should be mentioned, whether you look at it or not, that I am, along with my column, cited by name by Mr. Ameling in the above mentioned YouTube clip. Of all the topics I mentioned in the article as needing questioning, the only one he chose to address involved the Rossers, or as I am hearing him pronounce it on the recording- Rosslers. It was my exchange with Mr. Ameling about the Rossers that led to a conversation with one of the contractors on the fields project after the meeting. What he said to me was that he had researched the Rossers claim and he felt they were wrong. He also said that in talking with his grandparents, handshake deals were common on the Island back then, and that it was more than likely true that the Rossers had such a deal. I did not ask him if he were in a situation similar to the Rossers



if he wouldn't be fighting to substantiate his claim as they have. Everyone bemoans the passing of how things used to be on Vashon. At the same time, it seems to be not so difficult to condemn someone for trying to live by the same principles and methods of operation that used to be. There was no dispute with the Rossers and their driveway and easement until the VPD came in with their fields plan and pushed them aside. The other overlooked part of this is that this is not even parks property- it did and does belong to the school district.

Another thing the contractor mentioned was that the parks would not be in the trouble they are in if the Rossers hadn't forced their dispute into court. This is not true. The reason VPD is going into the end of this year at least \$58K in the hole is because the board authorized the spending of way more money than they had because of the dream of a gift. Whenever someone blows it big, it has to be expected that a fall guy, a scapegoat, a boogeyman has to be found to vilify and to transfer blame. That was the role of the Rossers until this past Tuesday the 11th, when Mr. Ameling accused you and me of complicity in this debacle because we did not show up to tell him not to spend what we didn't have. I titled this piece An Unexpected Journey, partly because that is the second title of the just released Hobbit film, and mostly because of the fact that I had no idea that this was happening or that I would wind up spending so much time going down various roads in order to try and find out what the heck is going on. As it turns out, the actual second title from the Hobbit book is "There, and Back Again". What this brings to mind is the quote attributed to Albert Einstein, and that is: "Insanity- doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." When I look into Mr. Ameling's eyes on the YouTube clip and he asks whether we think anyone cares more about the parks than he does, I'm almost ready to answer no, I don't. But when he says that all we need to do is get to the end of the year and "...everything will be just like it was", I am quickly snapped back to the reality that the VPD has been crippled by the actions of this board and it is time for a fresh start with people unassociated with this debacle.

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End of the Year Sweeping Up

by Mary Tuel

It is time to call it a year, and in the spirit of tidying up and finishing the unfinished, here are a few items I never got around to this year:

First of all, you commuters, walkers, joggers, students, and bicyclists: wake up and wear something reflective. I am not a commuter, but I am a commuter enabler. I frequently give my son a ride to the ferry in the morning and pick him up in the evening. It is astonishing to me how many people are out on our public thoroughfares in the dark, wearing dark clothing. People suddenly appear in my headlights in or beside the road, which provides me a good cardiovascular workout, but



Illustration by Rick Tuel

holy carp, kids, it's scary.

To those of you who wear reflective clothes or vests or shoes and carry flashlights or other beacons to show you are there, thank you. You cannot wear too much of this stuff. If you are a bicyclist with a tiny little white light in front and a tiny little red light in back, you need to know that you cannot be seen. You need to slap reflective tape on every surface of your bike as well as your clothing. Please.

Be mindful of how hard it is to see you. Don't take for granted that drivers will see and avoid you. Be mindful of the terrible fragility of your human body. You will not win an argument with a car. It does not matter that you have the right of way or that you or your survivors can sue someone after the fact. Living a healthy life in an unbroken body is more to be

desired than a broken or dead body and revenge. Trust me on this. Make yourself visible.

Second, I have recently signed on as a volunteer for VIPP. One of VIPP's pressing needs is for foster homes for dogs awaiting adoption. My husband and I recently took in a foster dog, and experienced the major pitfall of fostering: we fell in love with the dog and now she's part of our family. As pitfalls go, not so bad, (our pitfall is pit bull, which I've been trying to resist saying but have failed) but we'll have to be a little more hard headed for our next foster. You'll be hearing more about fostering animals in the months to come, but for now I ask you to consider whether you have room in your home to provide a safe temporary home for a deserving pup. Think about it, and if you think you might be able to do it, look into it by contacting VIPP at dogs@vippp.org.

Third, I was listening to God recently - most of you would call this meditating, being quiet and paying attention to what comes - and here is what I heard: preach tolerance. This little nugget of instruction has made me acknowledge to myself that, oh yeah, I do preach, don't I? And I do preach tolerance. How often have I said here that we're all in this together? I am ever mindful that the practice of tolerance is counter to my own human nature which is naturally inclined to be judgmental, jealous, and self-serving. I know I'm not alone in

my reactive human nature. So you'll be hearing more about that, too, but for now I leave you with this major contribution from a minor prophet: "...what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8b

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, or whatever it is you are or are not celebrating. I wish you well. Try to be tolerant of people who wish you well, even if they don't say it the way you'd prefer, okay?

Strained Gnats

Continued from Page 1

a moment, exactly what sort of evidentiary force did the photograph with descriptive text *add* to the equation? It's a still PHOTOGRAPH, not a movie. A picture of my car on a street is not like a picture of me knocking over a bank or a liquor store where the content of the photograph actually depicts the apparent criminal activity. My alleged crime was that of *speeding*, and a still photograph doesn't show speeding. The SAME EXACT still picture could also be depicting me stalled at a dead stop in the middle of the street or going 90 miles an hour instead of 26.

The descriptive text accompanying the photograph is only as good as the operating officer's say so. May as well just settle for the officer's say so by itself because, essentially, it's just the officer's assertions written down and stuck on the picture. It doesn't add any evidentiary value in and of itself.

Secondly, this entire approach to catching speeders steals the accused's right to speak in their own defense for all practical purposes. Ordinarily, I would say something like "imagine being accused of a crime and being denied the right to speak on your own behalf" except that you don't have to *imagine* it. Just get one of these photographic speeding tickets and you can experience it for yourself.

Think about it. Whenever you have received a traffic infraction in the past, back when you still got personal contact with an actual police officer when you got your ticket, you have always been an active participant in the process. You're THERE, in the moment, actively paying attention and witnessing all of the facts carefully and remembering them for the future, perhaps even discussing the details of the incident with the citing officer at the time. You're fully cognitively aware of what's going on and if there's anything hinky with what's happening to you, you're aware of it at the time and can carefully examine the situation. Was someone driving erratically and you were trying to avoid them at the time? Was there a moving van parked in front of the blinking school zone light so you didn't see it and didn't know you were in a school zone? When the red light came on in your rearview mirror, did you check your speed and it showed you weren't speeding and so you think the officer's radar is mis-calibrated or his radar must've targeted a different car?

But with a photograph-

based speeding ticket, you don't find out until about 10 days later that you've even been accused. You have absolutely no chance to gather evidence to defend yourself at the time the alleged crime was committed. About the only thing YOU can do is appear as a character witness for yourself. You can trust me when I tell you that's not going to be very effective in court.

I can barely remember being in the citation area at all much less any potentially exculpatory details. Again, while I would pretty clearly remember robbing a bank or knocking over a liquor store, who can remember exactly what they were doing along an arbitrary stretch of road 10 days ago? I'm a very stodgy, safe driver, very prone to obeying traffic laws. But can I honestly say I now remember that specific date, time and arbitrary stretch of road clearly enough to actually swear to the details in a court of law? No way, and the State (aka City of Seattle) knew that very well in coming up with this system. You can practically see the administrative avarice collecting in puddles.

Oh, technically, I can have my day in court if I want. And say what, exactly? "Um....uh...er....I really don't know if I was speeding or not"? Effectively, and very efficiently, any ability I MIGHT have had to mount an actual defense of myself is gone before I step in the court door. Any right I might have had to speak for myself is reduced to whining about how unfair it all is.

And if you're someone who thinks that we should all just accept the State's word on it when citizens are accused of crimes, then you're a fool and I'd be delighted to tell that to you to your face. The State gets it wrong all the time. They got it wrong in one detail in my actual case. They insisted I had not mailed in my required response and the state employee I was working with got all ramped up to jam extra penalties down my throat when I produced my certified mail receipt. The resentment from the employee for my having successfully defended myself against additional fees was palpable.

And why have courts *at all* if the State is always to be trusted, if their word is sufficient?

You can believe me when I tell you that these two flaws are not the only flaws I discovered with this ticketing system. I haven't covered the rest of them because of article size limitations.

So celebrate, law-abiding citizens everywhere. Our children are much safer today. And it has only cost us a lowering of the bar of acceptable evidence and the complete repudiation of the notion of speaking in one's own defense.

Those with a more subtle political perception will recognize this sort of thing as

just an everyday example of how governments work to erode our basic rights and freedoms in favor of administrative expediency. We're being conditioned to believe that it's an either/or situation, that to achieve some social benefits we're simply going to have to give up some of our freedoms and rights. I mean, don't you WANT to keep children safe? As if such a worthwhile objective could not be achieved WITHOUT having to give up protections and freedoms in the process.

And don't forget, when we swallow such a poisoned policy pill, we are establishing a "precedent", a weapon far more effective than a bomb, that may be leveraged in other policy situations more politically useful for the government in the future. In America, a relinquished right or freedom is the political/legal gift that just keeps on giving, as far as the government is concerned. It is the essence of the slippery slope.

I am neither angry, resentful, or disappointed in my government for behaving in this shameful way. It's in its nature, no insult intended. The real fault lies with us, the citizenry, for being insufficiently vigilant. That is our job, honestly.

So the thing that surprises (and disheartens me) most about this whole experience is the type of responses I get from people on this issue:

1. Yeah, it's a racket.
2. If you don't want to get a ticket then you shouldn't speed.
3. I'm glad they're finally doing something to stop people from speeding through school zones.
4. You're just mad because you got nailed with a speeding ticket.
5. Got a tinfoil hat to go with that conspiracy theory?

While all of the above may be true, it clearly shows a complete inability to perceive the vastly more important philosophical issues behind the mundane practical elements. Such people would have been technically correct if they pointed out that Rosa Parks would have gotten to her destination just as quickly if she had quietly sat in the back of the bus.

When it comes to American politics and the legalities of rights and freedoms, nothing is EVER what it seems on the surface; the implications and indirect ramifications are always far more critical. Because of this essential truth, there is no such thing as straining at gnats when it comes to our rights and freedoms. Simple things like where you sit on a bus or having the opportunity to sign your traffic citation make all the difference in the world between a country of rights and freedoms ... and something less.

How sad that what we have now is something less.

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Breaking News: The world did not end on Dec. 21, 2012. Mars, the planet of drive and desire, will square Saturn, the planet of structure, on Jan. 7. This looks like some kind of group consensus building that where emotional and erotic energy is involved, there is only so far stuffing things down can go; eventually the container fills up. Group opinion, described by Mars in Aquarius, is saying that it’s time to break free against the constraints of Saturn in Scorpio. Beware of emotional frustration, or conforming without careful thought, to what you think others want. The Sun is now in Capricorn, where we’ll experience a New Moon on Jan. 11. The corresponding Leo Full Moon occurs Jan. 26. All of the inner planets are moving in direct motion. Jupiter is currently retrograde in Gemini, and stations direct on Jan. 30, where it will sail clear across that sign in one final go, and ingress Cancer (one of its home signs) on June 25.

Aries (March 20-April 19)
You don’t need validation from others to renegotiate a relationship arrangement; this is between you and the person you’re involved with. Yet you may be influenced by the opinions of your friends, or what you perceive as public opinion. Monitor this factor carefully, even if you think that it doesn’t apply. Much of what people do in their one-on-one relationships is influenced or even dictated by presumed norms of their social circle, or what they read in magazines. The kinds of relationships we have, why we have them and who we have them with are all under this influence. In the best-case scenario, you may be about to break free of both the views of others and the constraints of an intimate partnership. Make sure that your intentions are what actually guides your life.

Taurus (April 19-May 20)
There is no suppressing passion, though many have tried to harness its energy for purposes other than enjoyment and creativity. Have you noticed that there’s not one religion that suggests that the love of humans for one another is more important than God? Given that the existence of other humans is a proven part of daily life, we have reason to question this kind of philosophical dictate -- but only if we notice it. Speaking of the relationship between love, passion and religion, you seem to be ready to ignite the karma of very old patterns that has held you down for so long. You’ve certainly done plenty of questioning what you’ve been told, though now you’re in a position to directly challenge these instructions and patterns with your actual feelings, your body and your soul. Forget the theory; go into the experience directly.

Gemini (May 20-June 21)
If you want depth, you don’t have to dig or blast. The way is open, and you’re being invited in. This is a different kind of intimacy than what you may have known before. The one-on-one concept of closeness still exists, though in the context of other forms of contact. I suggest you take a gentle and exploratory approach to the events of the next few weeks, placing emphasis on opening up the possibilities rather than closing them off. If you remain open to experience, and stay alert, this journey will reveal how much potential there is in the realm of relationships. I would remind you that it’s easy for old patterns to have an undue influence on new opportunities that you’ve never experienced -- and that’s the very pattern this experience can take you beyond.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Plenty seems to be changing in your life, but is it really happening to you? It would seem that most of what is moving is focused on the lives and situations of others, and being the sensitive person you are, you need to exercise choice over your involvement. There will be situations involving intimate partners where you will have a direct role, and even there, it’s important that you recognize your limited involvement. This will help matters rather than hinder them. Part of your value in the situation is expressing empathy and holding space, while not being too wrapped up in it. Learning this skill may be one of the central ‘lessons’ of this lifetime. To safely assist and facilitate the processes of others, a measure of objectivity

is required, and as you know, that is easier said than done.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)
Building your foundations is directly related to your healing process. This in turn is directly related to your ability to structure your work and accomplish what you set out to do every day. These are practical matters, not merely emotional or intellectual notions. Your mode of development and expression is as much in physical space and time as it is an ‘inner reality’, to which healing is so often relegated. You’re at the beginning of this particular process; what you’re doing now is building the foundation for much that will follow. There is a relationship between your physical space, your emotional space and your growth process. One theme is how you define security, and this is rapidly evolving. That at the moment it involves the space you occupy conceals a deeper truth -- the one about the roots of your soul.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
It sometimes takes a push for you to break free from your cautious or retreating nature and take a chance. I’m not even talking about a very big chance; I mean breaking free of a familiar pattern long enough for something new to happen. Well, you’re in a heck of a moment to establish something strong, solid, original and genuinely creative. It’s as if your life cracks open and is revealed to be an egg, from which something truly beautiful hatches. That something would be you, with newborn passion for your presence on the planet and what you came here to do. Who needs enlightenment when you can devote yourself to having fun, in connection to a useful purpose? I recognize you have too many memories of living ways other than this, though they seem to be fading fast.

Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)
Those who strive for security tend to create false security rather than establish the conditions that would support actual confidence. Skip the externals, for now; work making peace with the mixed-up, antiquated ideas that you got from your family as a kid and young adult. Some of those people had no idea what it means to be secure on the planet, though fair to say, few people really do. You seem determined to find out; and you’re in the perfect position to do so. One thing you may learn is that feeling grounded involves accepting the fact that the Earth is moving, that it is a work in progress and that you are a work in progress. But there is such a thing as relatively solid ground -- and as the next few weeks progress you are likely to discover a few places that match this description.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)
You have a lot of options open, including making some big moves with relative ease. There is a flow between the most personal aspects of your psyche and some of the most worldly, professional ones. There is a blend of the evolutionary impulse, deep instinct and a kind of freemason-like ability to structure the physical world. This is to say, you can make the decisions you’ve been wanting to make for a while, and you don’t need to worry if they are too big. Once you make these particular choices, and address the changes that are involved in following through with them, you will see that in fact they

were relatively minor and mainly served to improve your life and build your confidence, so that you can make even more significant adjustments over the course of the next year.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)
You now get to focus on money -- perhaps in the most meaningful way ever. You get to make up for a lot of past mistakes this month, and do something with the whole “if I only knew then what I know now” thing. And it’s true, this is about what you do with knowledge, in particular, knowledge of your priorities. If you have conscious priorities, you’re so far ahead of the game, you would be shocked. If you develop them over time (which you do) you are at a significant advantage, and if you put your knowledge into action, you have what it takes to do this thing called succeed. Yet the name of the tune is succeeding at what is the most meaningful to you. And to do that, you have to be aware what that thing is.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
You have incredible strength to draw on now. It’s coming from a diversity of sources, though one of the most powerful is from devotion. We’ve all heard that the reward of patience is more patience, which is not exactly encouraging, since that perhaps implies some shade of not getting what you want, or delaying gratification (which would be a brilliant thing, in modern Western society). Your devotion, however, is the source of your potency, and that devotion is driven by genuine affection. What the charts are suggesting is that you will be changed by this process, and so too will the people you are close to. There is something here about breaking through the facade of existence and opening yourself up to the core of what it means to be alive in a fully committed way.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
We all have secrets, and yours are pretty interesting. The ones that you would think are likely to make you feel the most guilty for revealing are actually those most likely to stir up your passion. They are the most nourishing and (dare I suggest) empowering. Don’t keep this stuff to yourself. Find people to share your most intimate thoughts with, and keep letting it out, engaging in an actual dialog with those who want to know you and, for that matter, those who express any interest. The release of pressure will remind you that you’re a whole person with nothing to hide. That, in turn, will help you feel more comfortable in your skin, which will increase your sense of presence and stature. In other words, keeping secrets is not good for success. Feeling good is excellent for it, though.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
It’s time to start focusing your energy. I suggest you begin that focusing project at home, as New Year’s cleaning and organizing. For good luck, collect everything you don’t need and give it away or throw it out. The next step is focusing your social energy. You are in high-visibility, open-access season right now as the Sun transits through Capricorn, so you may be a little overwhelmed. I suggest that everyone in your life have their specific purpose, even if that purpose is ‘good company’. I know that that functionality is not high on most people’s social agenda, but it is on yours. One other thing: The line between lovers and friends is as permeable as it will ever be right now. There is a space open for deep exchange. Keep an open mind and an open heart.

Read Eric Francis daily at [www. PlanetWaves.net](http://www.PlanetWaves.net).



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Island Epicure



By Marj Watkins

Pom! Pom! Pom! Gingerbread Drummers Play

These cookie drummer boys are full of wholegrain goodness and have lower Glycemic Index numbers than cookies made with only wheat flour. Using half gluten-free and half all-purpose flour makes their dough more elastic, thus easier to roll out, than using all gluten free flours. If gluten is a problem for anyone in your family, use only teff and sorghum flours. Teff is extra-high in fiber.

Drummer Boy
Ginger Cookies
Makes about 8
(5-inch tall) drummers
& some 2-inch angels

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
Mix well in large bowl:
½ cup melted butter
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup molasses
¼ cup water
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs
Sift and stir in gradually:
3 ½ cups all purpose flour
or 1 cup teff flour
2 ½ cups sorghum flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon soda
¼ teaspoon clove powder
2 teaspoons cinnamon
2 teaspoons ginger powder
Form three balls of dough.
Dover 2 with plastic wrap. On floured surface roll out one ball to 1/8 inch thickness. Cut drummer boy shape with 5-inch gingerbread man metal cutter or by cutting around a cardboard shape with a paring knife or steak knife. Pull extra dough away from boys. Use 2-inch cutters to make small gingerbread kids or angels, or form this dough into another ball, roll and cut again. (These cookies will be crisper.)

With spatula or pancake burner, carefully transfer cookies to foil-lined baking sheets. Decorate with red hot candies for mouths and buttons, or with raisins and currants, or some of each. Bake in center of oven 8 to 10 minutes. When dough dents and then springs back at a finger touch, the cookies are done. Let rest 5 minutes on pan. Transfer to racks to finish cooling. Repeat with the other two balls of dough, or freeze them for baking later.
Paint the boy’s clothes and drum with a mixture of egg yolk and food coloring. A mini-muffin tin offers plenty of little paint cups. Visualize the boy’s round belly as the drum’s top. Position toothpicks for drumsticks. Glue them on with egg white. Paint with egg-yolk and food coloring colors instead of sugar frosting to cut down a bit on the amount of sugar your people take in this Christmas.



By Orca Annie Stateler,
VHP Coordinator

In this column, I typically stick to observations about critters with flippers. Before I embarked on my current mission with marine mammals, however, I had a career in human suffering. I rather enjoyed my work as a mental health clinician, but the cruelty I witnessed as a case manager for Child Protective Services drove me back to nature. Man’s infinite capacity to inflict horrendous pain on other humans induced me to study orcas instead.

My former vocation always comes knocking when we endure a heinous but possibly preventable national tragedy. Satisfactory explanations for the carnage in Newtown, Aurora, Tucson, ad nauseum, will never manifest. These events are ineffable. Through our profound collective grief, we offer condolences, thoughts, prayers, and poignant tributes.

This time, are we sufficiently disgusted by the massacre of innocents? Can we pierce the nihilistic denial in our violence-obsessed society regarding gun ownership, regarding mental health treatment? Are we finally ready for transformative action and policy change?

Returning to whales -- after dusk on December 17, K Pod traveled slowly south in wind-whipped Colvos Pass. Mark Sears saw the orcas enter north Colvos four hours before we heard them on the hydrophone at Chez VHP. The orcas arrived with the evening high tide and we obtained our sixth Southern Resident recording of this season. Most vexing was the ultra-loud ferry noise masking the subdued orca vocalizations. We surmised that the engine and the prop were working

harder in the stiff wind.
Mark and I are lacking solid data on a December 11 visit by the Southern Residents. In scientific terms, one public photo of a single K Pod member does not adequately document the encounter. We urge anyone with photos or sightings from the 11th to contact the VHP.
As this will be the last Dorsal Spin of 2012, I wish to acknowledge the departed in the Southern Resident Community: Raggedy (K40), Sooke (L112), Alexis (L12), Tanya (L5), Gaia (L78), and Riptide (J30). Several of these whales died prematurely, and we will not learn why they died because they simply disappeared. Little Sooke’s body has been examined intensively, but the cause of her



death is still inconclusive.
Losing any Southern Resident is difficult, but I shed extra tears for Raggedy (K40) when I learned she was gone. She like Lummi (K7) was one of my special gals, among the Southern Residents I became well acquainted with 20 years ago. This week’s photo shows Raggedy on one of her final visits to Point Robinson.

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 commuters, your calls matter in our research effort! 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.



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The Road To Resilience

Continued from Page 1

their nakedness and took care of the business at hand. It was noted that when the ship’s party built a bonfire to stay warm, the locals stood a hundred feet or so away naked and sweating! I’ve heard another anecdote about a North American native. When asked how he could go about in the winter with no shirt on, he replied, “How can you go about in the cold with no covering on your face?” Receiving no answer, he continued, “Indians are all face!” If you’ve read any historic frontier or adventure novels, you can’t help but wonder how our own ancestors survived the conditions they faced with only the resources at hand.

As we move between our comfortable, climate controlled houses, cars, stores, churches, etc., we seldom give ourselves a chance to acclimate to and experience the real world. It’s hard to imagine how that cold wet dark world actually nurtures and supports us, but it does.

This is just one indication of how we have isolated and separated ourselves from what we call Nature; if we thought we were truly part of it, we wouldn’t continually refer to it as something other. Many of us see that our future lies in being able to abandon our

homocentric bubble in which we alone decide what we can or can’t do in “our” world, where everything is valued in terms of its utility for us. Over the past few years, I’ve begun to appreciate the position of deep ecologists. Their position is simply that we humans are not the total “why and wherefore” of existence on this planet. We are only a single species in a very complex life system and we have an obligation to respect and support all of our larger self, the world. As our fellow species, whom we depend on to maintain the world we know, blink out of existence at a greater and greater rate, I think it is clear that we have taken way more than our share and it is time to scale back.

For those holiday blues, I recommend taking a quiet walk in the woods. Commune with who and what is out there, give yourself time to let your eyes get used to the dark, your ears attune to the quiet, and your skin adjust to the cold and damp. Let the “out there” become “here,” and you may be better able to enjoy all that the season has to offer.

Hope your dark time is both festive and meaningful!

Comments?
terry@vashonloop.com



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Positively Speaking

Talking About Jesus on the Last Day of the World

Welllllll gosh golly whadyaknow.... the Mayans were right. They were just a week late with their date. Indeed on 14 December 2012 the world came to an end. Twenty children were killed in a school in small town urban suburbia America. We have reached the bottom of the barrel . There is no more ‘low’ to which we can sink.

Everything seems pretty meaningless right now. I think back on the events of the week and they are filtered through Friday morning’s shattering event.

On Tuesday one of my delightful sprites of life whom I had not seen in months lay beneath her Christmas tree after school and said excitedly ‘Climb under with me Deborah!!!’ She’s totally into fairy houses and there underneath the tree I found the mist of magic shining through the branches as I looked up to see the decorations and lights in reverse. Now, I’m glad I honored the whimsical request of my young friend because the only thing I can think of to make life have meaning again is to look on those young lives, as I always have, as experts on living; now moreso than ever.

The night of the shooting, another one of my playtime buddies, who is totally into World War II and all things military and tactical, asked me to watch a couple of movies and I had one to share with him. I silenced my urge to say I couldn’t watch shooting movies that night because I didn’t know what he knew or what his reaction was. About five minute into things he turned to me and asked, “Did you hear about that thing that happened in Connecticut today?” We kept the conversation simple. It was all he could handle.

I had brought ‘Windtalkers’ about the Navajo code talkers and then he wanted us to watch ‘Tora, Tora, Tora’ and to tell you the truth, by the end of three hours of watching people blowing up and countries hate each other I realized the issue with Connecticut and yet another privileged alienated youth is not as much gun control but mental health.

We have a mental health crisis in this country and we do next to nothing but prescription drugs that have good black market value. We need to focus on building sanity.

The timing of this column is calendared around my traditional ‘why I have a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus and say it would be a good thing for you to try too.’ I had done my usual reflection prior to writing on just exactly why Jesus is my Savior and

By Deborah H. Anderson



Lord. I don’t insist everyone in the world think the same way but I do once a year witness to the difference that very real live relationship has made in my life.

I had decided this year’s theme was going to be how Jesus loves children and why that’s a winner for me. But now all I can see is Jesus sitting in front of those twenty little faces gathered around him telling them, like that teacher huddled with her class in the bathroom, that it’s all going to be all right and gosh...I can’t find the words anymore. That picture is enough. That’s who Jesus is. He’s the one that said ‘Let the little children come to me.’ He said, ‘Of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ He said, in order to find heaven and the Kingdom of God we had to become like little children. Healthy little children. Innocent little children. Delightful little children. Loving little children. Whimsical little children. Trusting little children. Hopeful little children.

My whole life has been about supporting and loving and encouraging little children and big youth. It still is. I’ve watched adults use children to working out their childish stuff. I’ve watched adults use children as pets. I’ve watched adults bless children with material possessions and forget what children love most is engagement and eye contact and companionship.

But I’ve also watched and joined with adults who believe children are the only reason life has meaning. Adults who believe that straightening out their own childhood issues so they don’t pass them on to the next generation is the best blessing we can give. Adults who would no more let children wander around on their own to figure everything out than ...well Jesus.

This same Jesus says we can’t ever quit. We too must be agents of redemptive love. Even in, especially in a world that seems lost in darkness that will not lift. I say it again. Jesus is different. Today, he gives me hope when I have none. Today he is busy loving twenty children who just lost their parents. Let us love the ones left here on this earth as Jesus does. It’s the only action that will make a difference. Jesus teaches us how to love the lost better so they do not hurt the free.

Love,
Deborah



Coming in January!!!

Three experiences from LGC Educational Services

“Character Club: and after school experience that encourages kids from 5-16 in developing integrity, courage, resiliency, and empathy.

“Of COURSE You Know What You’re Doing!...and if you don’t you can figure it out” : a parenting class for all ages, stages, typical and special needs that helps parent’s understand The Easy Fix, The Educated Fix, and The Enduring Fix.”

“How to Survive Almost Anything Through Love, Power, Nurture, and Strength...with a few laughs thrown in” : an open lecture for those who want more Hope” by Deborah H Anderson

Vashon Library January 2013 Program Calendar

Children & Families

When the Vashon Library has moved to the temporary location for the upcoming expansion project (date still to be determined), please call the library at 206.463.2069 for Story Time location.

Family Story Times

Tuesday, January 8, 15, 22 and 29, 11:30am
Newborn to age 6 with caregiver.
Come for a fun-filled, half-hour of stories, finger plays, movement and music!
Registration not required.

Baby Story Times

Wednesday, January 9, 16, 23 and 30, 10am
Ages 3 to 21 months with caregiver.
Enjoy stories, songs, bounces and tickles just right for your baby.

Teens

Online Study Zone, Homework Help and SAT

Go to www.kcls.org and click on Research & Homework for 3 choices for help with homework.

* Live Homework Help (K-12, 2pm-midnight, 7 days a week; available in Spanish)

* MSP, HSPE, SAT Service Tutoring (by Brainfuse, 1-10pm, 7 days a week).

Adults

Opera Lecture: La Cenerentola by Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Sunday, January 6, 2pm
Held at Vashon Senior Center, 10004 Southwest Bank Road Vashon, WA 98070.
Presented by Norm Hollingshead.
Gioachino Rossini wrote 38 operas in 20 years, his first when he was only 18. Only a few of those 38 operas are still performed in our own time, mostly his handful of imperishable comedies. The sweetest of these is his version of the Cinderella fairy tale, only Rossini’s retelling includes no magic, only one hilarious and irresistible tune after another.
Sponsored by the Friends of Vashon Library.

Great Books Discussion Group Selected Poems: Joy, The Power of Music to Disturb, Immortality and Into Space by Lisel Mueller

Monday, January 7, 6:30pm
The Great Books Discussion Group meets on the first Monday of the month, October through June. Visitors are welcome. The only requirement to participate is that you have read the material under discussion.

Friends of Vashon Library Meeting

Saturday, January 12, 10am
Open to the public! Share your ideas for raising funds to support our library programs, expand community services and recruit new members. Be an informed and involved neighbor by joining us at the Friends of the Vashon Library meetings. See you there!
When the Vashon Library has moved to the temporary location for the upcoming expansion project (date still to be determined), please call the library for program location, 206.463.2069.

A Tribute to Edgar Allen Poe

Saturday, January 12, 2pm
Held at Vashon Maury Senior Center, 10004 SW Bank Road, Vashon.
Poe scholar and character actor, Jake Esau, presents a special one-person performance of “A Tribute to Edgar Allan Poe” which

includes dramatic recitations of Poe tales and poems.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Vashon Library.

Computer Class: Microsoft Word Level 1

Monday, January 14, 10:15am
Learn basic skills for entering, correcting and revising text on a computer.
Prerequisite: Ability to use the mouse and keyboard.

Vashon Island Parents Read Getting to Calm: Cool-Headed Strategies for Parenting Tweens+Teens by Laura S. Kastner, Ph.D and Jennifer Wyatt, Ph.D

Location Change
Tuesday, January 15, 9:30-11am (Vashon Library)

Thursday, January 24, 7-8:30pm (McMurray Middle School Library, 9329 SW Cemetery Rd Vashon, WA 98070)

Read the book then come discuss it with other parents

Dr. Kastner will join the evening book discussion on January 24. Copies of Getting to Calm are available for checkout at the Vashon Library.

Please call the library at 206.463.2069 to sign up for the evening book discussion as space is limited.

Sponsored by Vashon Youth and Family Services, the King County Library System and the Friends of the Vashon Library.

Rembrandt and the Art of the 17th Century

Saturday, January 26, 2pm
Join art historian Susan Olds for an introduction to the art of the 17th Century and the Dutch Masters. The presentation will focus on the paintings and lives of the Dutch Masters and the many changes in European art during the Protestant Reformation. The 17th Century was a pivotal time when Dutch genre paintings, landscapes, botanical illustration, landscape painting, portraiture and still life painting flourished. The program will conclude with an overview of historical novels set in 17th Century Holland. Books and DVDs on the period as well as historical novels set in Holland will be available for checkout following the program.
Held at Vashon Maury Senior Center, 10004 SW Bank Road, Vashon.

Tax Help for Low Incomes

Wednesday, January 30, 11am
Professional tax preparer Hilary Emmer will help those with incomes of \$25,000 or less prepare their 2012 tax forms, as well as those who qualify for a property tax exemption.
Free and no appointment necessary.

Free ESL Classes

Tuesdays, 6pm
Held at Vashon United Methodist Church (large conference room), 17928 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon, 98070.
Learn how to speak, read and write in English. Free weekly lessons, beginning to intermediate level, taught by an ESL Instructor.
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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 p.m. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Many folks in the Northwest are familiar with Bill's high energy 'rockin' blues show that he's been performing in the Northwest since 1986. Bill has been likened to Paul Butterfield in his use of the harmonica and his vocals have garnered many a discussion concerning his cultural background. Bill's love of this genre is evident in the players he surrounds himself with. John Gaborit, on lead guitar, has been playing in the Pacific NW since the mid 60's and gained national recognition with his work with the Seattle touring group Krome Circus. Michael Stango, on bass,



has had the opportunity to sit in and play with such illuminating musicians as Herbie Hancock, Harvey Mandel, The Original Temptations, Kenny G's band and many others. Bill Brown is proud to announce a new drummer in the band, Todd Zimberg.

Todd has worked in the Puget Sound region as a drummer, percussionist and educator for more than 20 years. The performance is free and all-ages (until 11:00). Friday, December 28, 8:30 p.m. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Countdown to 2013 at Sporty's

Celebrate 2013 with Live Music & Dancing. Special Musical Guest to be announced. How long can the best New Year's Eve party on Vashon be kept a secret...
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Where the locals go!

Holiday Concert and Fundraiser

Continued from Page 1
her as other artists sing them on stages across the country and Sing Out! Magazine says Kate "channels the spirit of the great Carter Family classics." Kate and Kat accompany each other in a performing duo that has spanned 12 years and two full-length recordings. Joe Jencks, who has roots in the Pacific Northwest, is noted for his unique merging of musical beauty, social consciousness, and spiritual exploration. Jencks weaves a diverse web of stories with brilliant musical skill. Expect some delicious three-part harmony as the three musicians join voices in closing the end of a year. Saturday, December 29, at 7:30pm. Bethel Church, 14736 SW, Bethel Ln, Vashon Island. Artist Websites: www.KatEggleston.com www.KateMacLeod.com www.JoeJencks.com Vashon Maury Food Bank www.vashonfoodbank.org

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17311 Vashon Hwy Sw

Water District 19 Commission Proposes New Master Policy Resolution

Continued from Page 1
with a water service connection can be serviced with water after issuance of an engineering study that assures the out-building and the primary residence in combination will use less than one equivalent residential unit worth of water. This new regulation is in conformity with the Accessory Dwelling Unit policy passed earlier by the commission , that allows an ADU to be serviced with water from the same water connection that serves the principal residence. [Article III, paragraph iv (b)]
For More Information, contact: Jeff Lakin, General Manager, 463-9007 or Steve Haworth, Commission President 463-3509



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New Years Eve with One More Mile

One More Mile is a Vashon band that has been together for over 3 years now. With a combined talent that has been blessed to perform on stages from the Washington Performing Art Center to the earthy feel of the old Central Tavern in Seattle's Pioneer Square over the course of their varied careers, One More Mile is committed to putting out the best of music for all to enjoy. Still committed to roots of the blues, and branching out into some funk sounds and performing a few originals as well, we really give it our all to make for a show that is always talked about the morning after!

Their rhythm section is made up of Sam Veatch and David Salonen and they are better than ever, as these two guys have been playing together now for over 5 years. They are as tight and wonderful as any band could dream for. Lonesome Mike is still perfecting his harp sound and really puttin' his all into his music. Jason Lollar and Tommy Bean trade



licks on their guitars that get everyone excited to just BE THERE when the music is playing! We all believe that nothing should be left behind when performing, and we give it our 110% ALL!

Come check these guys out at the Red Bicycle, it's going to be a real treat to see them play on the best party night of the year, NEW YEARS EVE!!!

The performance is free and all-ages (until 11:00). Monday, December 31, 9p.m. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

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Next Edition of The Loop Comes out Thursday, January 3

Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, December 28**



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Loopy Laffs

LOGJAM



BY Jeff Hawley





