



VASHON

# THE LOOP

Vol. 9, #4

A VASHON-MAURY ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

February 16, 2012

## Oscar Night Focuses on Keeping the Vashon Theatre in the Spotlight



Change was on the minds of the Oscar Night planning committee at their most recent meeting. Fiona Hope remembered how a Polaroid camera was used to capture the red carpet festivities in the early years, and Marty Schafer said it was always a challenge to borrow a vintage car to be the event's limousine.

It's a major change in the movie industry itself, the move from 35 mm film to all digital releases that brings new urgency to the 15th year of Vashon Film Society's Academy Awards fund raiser on Sunday, February 26. Vashon Theatre owner Eileen Wolcott is faced with the challenge of replacing the theatre's film projection system with new digital equipment in order to continue showing new movies at all. She is working with

VFS to plan a fund raising campaign for the upgrade.

Vashon's Oscar Night has always focused attention on preservation of the island's only movie theatre. In fact, it was KCPQ's television coverage of the event one year that inspired then-West Seattle residents Eileen and Gordon Wolcott to investigate buying the theatre and helping to save movie going on the island.

Another change for Oscar Night this year is a new role for former mistress of ceremonies Karen du Four des Champs: she will join the panel of costume contest judges and award prizes to creatively dressed attendees. Du Four des Champs will be joined by fellow judges David

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## Tacoma, Southworth Ferry Routes Discontinued; Fauntleroy Sailings Reduced

By Steve Amos

Did that headline scare you? Good. I'm glad. That was the hoped-for effect.

No, it hasn't actually happened... yet. Which probably qualifies the above headline as the worst sort of sensationalist journalism, for which I apologize. But only a little. Because even shrieking "Fire!" in a crowded theater is permissible if you have legitimate reason to believe it's about to happen. But before I get to any legitimate reporting, let me indulge in a little more sensationalism while I have your attention.

All the really good scary stories have some basis in fact. The "sensationalist" headline above is a prediction of the downstream results of statements recently made by Washington State Transportation Sec. Paula Hammond in a presentation to the Senate and House transportation committees. Essentially, Hammond said that if a transportation budget is not produced by the state legislature, something the legislature has failed to do for several years, Washington State Ferries would have to eliminate six of its eleven routes and reduce service on two others. The Vashon routes were all on the list.

What would be the effect of such a thing on Vashon? To help your imagination along, it might serve to think in terms verbalized by Kari Ulatoski, erstwhile Chair of the Vashon Maury Island Community Council Transportation Committee and current member of both the Ferry Community

Partnership and Vashon Island Ferry Advisory Committee: "When you look at it, so many of us who came to Vashon and to Kitsap came here because they couldn't afford at the time to live in other areas. ... and that I attribute to the State of Washington because had they not taken over the ferry system in 1950, so this has been going on for 60 years, and made it reasonable and made it inviting we would not have the population we have over there. It is the main transport across the sound from a number of different places."

In short, the viability of living on Vashon for most people is predicated on the availability of workable transportation at more or less reasonable prices. Minus that predicate, Vashon is no longer livable for a significant portion of the Island population. If that happens, what's the downstream effect? About now you should be considering the value of your home, your ability to get to your employment, what would happen to local Island businesses facing large losses of patronage, the prices of goods and services on Vashon, and just about everything else that has to do with the viability of living on Vashon. It's that simple.

How did we get here? I-695, passed in 1999, drastically slashed car tab fees and put a dent in about 7% of Washington State's tax revenue. Major portions of that revenue were targeted

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## Road to Resilience

### Choosing Our Future

By Terry Sullivan, Transition Vashon

Living in an unincorporated area, especially with 3 miles of water between us and the governing body, can be seen as both good and bad, depending on the government activity you're talking about and who you are talking to. Generally speaking, if it has to do with regulation or oversight of your activities, distance makes for good relations. If it is about getting services or making complaints about things, getting overlooked is a bad thing. I'd like to put forth the premise that we do a lot better when we do for ourselves. Doing for ourselves, though, is not as easy as it seems, so we have been willing to put up with "one size fits all" rules and regulations from the county, even though more elegant solutions might be had if we applied some creative effort to it.

We Vashon and Maury islanders identify strongly with our little Mid-Sound duopoly. We love the beauty, the opportunity to pursue activities that are difficult or impossible to do in the city, and we like the ability to choose the level and frequency of our social interaction. Several hundred of us spend a lot of time volunteering to take care of our children, the poor and the sick, to safeguard our

environment, to educate ourselves about being more efficient and self-reliant, etc. Most of the rest support those activities with donations.

Given that laudable state of affairs, we are still a community of communities. We have separate communities that are involved with sports, farming, boating, hunting, horses, flora and fauna, arts and on and on. Once in a while, two or more of our communities have a conflict and resolution usually involves one side conceding, not because a satisfactory solution was arrived at, but because they didn't have the time or resources to pursue it, or they just didn't have the votes.

We've not had to make many hard choices because we have been relatively prosperous and our extensive, complex support systems have been stable. While some of us couldn't care less about ferries, most of us are very dependent on them. I'm sure you noticed that the state was considering dropping the Tacoma and Southworth ferry runs. It's hard to imagine that they would actually do it, but the fact that they would even consider it should tell us that we need to start looking at some options. Another sign is the county's decision to cut back

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## Amanda Knox: The Mask and Mantle

October 3, 2011, 5:13pm, SeaTac Airport. The British Airways jet touches down, Amanda Knox is home and our collective breath is released, but our joy was tempered with thoughts of Meredith Kercher's family.

Standing on the deck of a ferry, I had the unexpected pleasure of watching that jet fly over Seattle and drop below the treetops as it descended onto the tarmac, later I would learn that Amanda was remarking how "surreal" it was to see home. She's right. Her plight affected many of my friends and throughout this ordeal we chanted, "When her plane touches down at SeaTac, then it's over."

Gliding above the Space Needle and The Box It Came In, this huge jet represented the end of that frightening odyssey. Pure unabashed relief was palpable in our community for weeks afterward and we fully support Amanda's next odyssey, shedding the mask of Convicted Murderer and the mantle of Sex-Crazed Maniac.

That Amanda is the figment of a depraved imagination and does not exist.

The Real Amanda does not have to prove herself to the people who know her best and that would be Seattle, thank you very much,

not Perugia. As each day takes both Amanda and her friend, Raffaele Sollecito, closer to reclaiming their lives, their family and friends want the world to know one thing:

"All harassment needs to stop because no one is entitled to dictate anything to either Amanda or Raffaele."

Seattle's concern was evident as Welcome Home signs sprang up around West Seattle. One friend tells of the Fauntleroy Thriftway erupting into cheers when the verdict was announced. "Murder in Italy" author Candace Dempsey said that the reporters in the Perugian courtroom also cheered, an extremely rare occurrence in the media.

The Fairmont Olympic Hotel hosted a vigil and those who attended represented the thousands who supported the families. The local, national and international media was invited to share this very excruciating night with us, when verdict was announced it was easy to see that the Seattle press was just as excited as we were. In Perugia, Lynda Byron of KING 5 News related her experience of folks asking about Amanda's welfare everywhere she went. I had the same experience and when I returned to

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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](mailto:editor@vashonloop.com). Photos are welcome as jpeg or pdf attachments.

### All Island Forum

All Island Forum invites ALL ISLANDERS to an interactive forum to explore VASHON:

What really matters to you? Join friends and neighbors to share ideas about the character and future of Vashon. For each of us, what are the essential characteristics of a Vashon worth working for?

We are asking for wide reaching community participation as we as we hone our skills at listening and expressing our opinions, and begin to build a process through which we can make more nuanced and consensual decisions about matters that effect our Islands as a whole. Get to know your neighbors better, gain more appreciation for others' views, and learn more about what makes our community tick. What emerges from this evening's interaction will help inform future forums.

Monday February 27th from 7-9p at Open Space.

Our purpose is to provide a collaborative, participatory and effective forum for community dialogue & action. We seek clarity on issues, consensus on decisions, and community participation on solutions.

Please join us in community conversation.

### VMICC meeting on Tuesday

Chief Deputy Steve Strachan, second in command at the King County Sheriff's Office will give a presentation and answer written questions related to the staffing of officers on the island at the next Vashon Maury Island Community Council meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at the McMurray School.

In addition, the Community Care Center will be talking about their facility, plans and fund raising. Kyle Cruver, who has been approved by the board, will be introduced and a vote will be taken to place him on the VMICC board. The budget for the council will also be discussed

### The Vashon Loop

Writers: Kathy Abascal, Deborah Anderson, Marie Browne, Eric Francis, Troy Kindred, Terry Sullivan, Orca Annie, Kevin Pottinger, Steve Amos, Ed Swan, Mary Litchfield Tuel, Marj Watkins, Peter Ray.  
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Publisher: Steven Allen  
PO Box 1538, Vashon, WA 98070  
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### Sci-Fi Movies Benefit Chicken Soup Brigade

Chicken Soup Brigade has been on the Isand for the last 14 years. A donation of \$5-\$10 at the box office and some food items and your in!

Sci-Fi Saturday is on the 1st Saturday of the month at the Island Theatre, show time is 1:30 pm.


The films are mostly for the atomic era and a few off beat and funny ones will also be shown. Last month was "Young Frankenstein" Each month the show begins with an old Warner Bros. cartoon and then on with the show this it!

This month's offering is, "When World Collide" 1951 A great George Pal film.

### Caregivers Support Group

Vashon Community Care Center hosts a monthly Caregivers Support Group meeting. The group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7pm.

This group is geared toward family or friend caregivers, rather than paid caregivers. If interested or if you have questions, please call Julea at 567-4421.



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### Joyfully Embrace Change and Surrender to Your Purpose

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This workshop will equip you with tools and a process to help your big decisions align with your heart, so you can more authentically express the radiant being you are, and your amazing purpose on Earth!

Based locally on Vashon Island, J. Mathias Bennett is a spiritual advisor helping clients worldwide connect to the beauty of their soul, so they can joyfully live their purpose, in service to the ascension of humanity and the planet.

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For more information or questions, please contact me at: 503-893-5877, or [mathias@intuitivestrategyconsulting.com](mailto:mathias@intuitivestrategyconsulting.com).

I look forward to seeing you there!  
~ Mathias

### Vashon Delta Dog Winter Schedule

We will continue with alternating 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30pm @ Chautauqua Elemetary School and 2nd and 4th Mondays, 5pm @VHS.

FEBRUARY  
Tuesday February 21st, 6:30pm CES  
Monday February 27th, 5pm VHS

MARCH  
Tuesday March 6th, 6:30pm CES  
Monday March 12th, 5pm VHS  
Tuesday March 20th, 6:30pm CES  
Monday March 26th, 5pm VHS

Happy New Year!  
Kathy and Zeppo

**Its New and Free**  
**Visit Our New Website**  
**[www.VashonLoop.com](http://www.VashonLoop.com)**



Heron's Nest will be closed from February 15 until March 1 for a store facelift and reorganization

Join us for our Grand Reopening Celebration  
First Friday, March 2.

463.5252  
[VashonAlliedArts.org](http://VashonAlliedArts.org)

### Newly-Formed Women's Club Seeks Volunteers for Community Service Projects

A new General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) club is forming on Vashon Island. The first, "get acquainted" meeting will be held on March 4th, from 2:00-4:00PM in the Ober Park Performance Room. It will be used to educate potential members about the GFWC and begin shaping the Vashon Island Club's agenda. According to Pam Robbins, who first proposed formation of a club, all women age 18 and older who can volunteer a few hours a month to a community service project are encouraged to attend. "GFWC's motto is 'Unity in Diversity,'" Robbins explained, "so I'd love to have lots of different types of women come and offer suggestions and ideas."

The new club will be a member of the GFWC Washington State, which in turn is a member of the GFWC, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to community service through volunteering. Robbins clarified that members would be able to work on a wide range of projects in the arts, conservation, education, home life, international outreach, and public issues. The choice of issue areas and projects will depend on the needs of the community and the interests of the members.

While there are many GFWC clubs in Washington State, Vashon Island has not had one in several years.

Through its volunteer membership, GFWC has worked since 1890 on a broad program of social reform, including support of the first child labor law and equal pay for equal work, a youth suicide prevention program, and a safety for older Americans programs, among others.

The Vashon Library was originally founded by the Vashon Island Women's Club in 1916. Clubs promote life-long learning and offer women of all ages the opportunity to exchange ideas and form lasting friendships.

For more information about joining the Vashon Island Women's Club, contact Pam Robbins at [pam@jprobbins.com](mailto:pam@jprobbins.com) or 206-724-2096. To learn more about GFWC or GFWC-WS, visit their websites [www.gfwc.org/gfwc/default.asp](http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc/default.asp) and [www.orgsites.com/wa/gfwcWASHINGTON](http://www.orgsites.com/wa/gfwcWASHINGTON).

Jews have Torah but not Jesus.  
Christians have Jesus but not Torah.  
The first to humble himself and find his other ... wins!




[torahinmyheart.com](http://torahinmyheart.com)

## Next Edition of The Loop Comes out Thursday, March 1

Deadline for the next edition of *The Loop* is **Friday, February 24**





**Retail Hours:**  
Tues/Thurs/Sat 10-5

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

**This is how our yearly pre-shutdown sale is going to go:**

\* If you missed Tuesday not to worry. It was a dandy, but gets much better

\*Thursday everything is 75% off (2-16)

\* Saturday make a reasonable offer on any item in both buildings (2-17)

**Last week (duh!) to be buying those 'early shopper' raffle rickets**

**So that's it! It may fel like a decade, while we paint and upgrade, we'll see you all again, on March 10.**

**You can drop off your donations 7 days a week, 8am-4pm. Remember.....If you wouldn't give it to a friend, we can't use it!**

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CLOSED WEDNESDAYS





**Island Dance Theatre Ballet Classes at Ober Park Winter/Spring 2012**

**NEW! Pre-Tumbling – For movers age 3-5. Tuesdays 3-3:30PM. \$120**  
**NEW! Tumbling – For movers age 5-35 (or older). Tuesdays, 4-4:45PM. \$155**

**Beginning Ballet – Ballet basics for dancers 5 and older. Tuesdays, 4:50-5:45 PM. \$160**

**Intermediate Ballet – Intermediate ballet instruction for dancers age 8 and up. Mondays & Fridays, 4-5:25PM. \$400**

**Advanced Ballet – Advanced ballet instruction for dancers age 12 and up or by placement. Monday & Friday 5:35-7:30PM; Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45PM. \$720**

**Pointe/Pre-Pointe Ballet – Ballet on pointe for dancers age 12 and older. Beginning to Intermediate training in technique, strength and balance, with opportunities to learn variations in choreography. Wednesdays, 4-5:25PM; Saturdays, 11:30AM-12:55PM. \$400**

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(Price increases reflect the longer session of 22weeks)

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Vashon Library Events  
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# Next Telling Stories Speaker, Dr. Tag Gornall Seattle's Whale Doctor

Vashon Islander, Dr. Tag Gornall, is one of the world's foremost Marine Mammal Veterinarians. He is known for his work with the heart and diving studies of Namu, the first orca in captivity. He worked with sea otters during the Exxon-Valdez oil spill and has helped design aquariums around the world. He has been consulting veterinarian for the Seattle Aquarium, Pt Defiance Aquarium, Woodland Park Zoo, and other national and international aquariums. He has consulted on movies about marine life, including Free Willy 2. Tag is a past president of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine.

Tag credits his parents for teaching him to detect subtle clues in identifying problems by relying on an animal's behavior and body movements. Both of his parents were deaf. They relied on Tag and his sibling to evaluate and judge many conversations with hearing individuals. This helped him learn to pay close attention to detail- not just what someone said but how they sounded.

Tag owned several veterinary clinics and was the director of the Marine Animal Resource Center based in Seattle. He spent his whole career working to rescue, heal, study and rehabilitate marine and other mammals. Now retired from his veterinary career, Tag has turned his efforts in both business and volunteer work to organizations devoted to bettering the community of Vashon. He is the owner of Island Media, president of Island GreenTech, vice president of the Vashon Electric Vehicle



Association, and a VashonBePrepared volunteer. Tag sees these projects as his chance to give back for all the blessings in his life.

Come join us to hear stories of whales, otters, gorillas, polar bears and other mammals from one of the most respected men in the field of marine mammal veterinary science, Sunday, March 4 at 4 pm at Bethel Church, 14736 Bethel Lane SW, Vashon. All proceeds benefit the residents and programs of Vashon Community Care. Ticket sales are by donation and are available at Vashon Book Shop or Vashon Community Care. We expect tickets to sell out fast, so be sure to pick up your tickets in advance of the event. The Telling Stories Speaker Series is made possible by a generous donation from the estate of David W. and Catharine A. Carr.

# Should Black History Month Be Ended?

Should Black History Month Be Ended? That's the question explored by African American filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman as he embarks on a cross-country campaign to do just that. Community Cinema Vashon presents More Than a Month this Sunday, Feb 19th.

Both amusing and thought provoking, More Than a Month examines what the treatment of history tells us about race and power in contemporary America. The film takes the form of a road trip that begins in Washington, D.C., crisscrosses the country during Black History Month 2010, and ends with an epilogue one year later.

Using a light touch and sprinkling his quest with humorous dramatizations, Tilghman takes his question to black leaders and academics, to people in the street, and to his parents. The film is a first-person narrative of the filmmaker's quest to understand the implications of Black History Month.

What would it mean if Black History Month were no more? Would Black History itself disappear, never to be seen again? That's the question at the heart of More Than A Month. An institutionalized part of the national calendar, Black History Month has become a predictable observance, when schoolchildren learn about black heroes and historical figures, the TV schedule abounds with stories of African Americans, and commercial enterprises flavor their offerings with connections—however spurious—to black history. Filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman wonders if it's time to put an end to what he feels has become a rote exercise, and to free black history from the confines of February and ensure that it is thought of as year-round, mainstream American history.

In the end of the film, whether or not we have a Black History Month is actually not the point. The filmmaker argues that the idea that we need to have it at all speaks to a social failure to recognize that black history is American history, period. He feels that Americans must ensure that we don't need this special month, even if it continues to exist.



filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman

Is this film a fit for Vashon? ABSOLUTELY, YES! "It is my personal belief the true change begins in the hearts of individuals. When I meet people of African American heritage I need to remember that their ancestors were brought here against their will and provided the free labor that helped to build this country. They are Americans FIRST and part of its history." Jane Berg

Emma Amiad will be moderating the after film discussion. This film will be closed captioned. All ages are encouraged to attend. Community Cinema Vashon Events happens every 3rd Sunday in the Ober Park Performance Room from 3-5 pm. Community Cinema, on location in more than 100 cities nationally, features FREE monthly screening of films from the PBS Independent Lens Series. They bring together local organizations and community members to learn, discuss, and get involved in key social issues of our time.

We encourage you to explore the many PBS programs on line and on KCTS-Channel 9.

For information about our upcoming 2012 Spring films, check ccnw.tv (Community Cinema Pacific NW. CCVashon is presented by We All Belong - FREE film & discussion, a project of Welcome Vashon. Jane Berg - jane.e.berg@gmail.com - 567-4532.



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## Ruby Needs A Home...

This 7 year old lab mix is sweet, playful and needs lots of exercise. She has diabetes and was blind when she came to us, but our wonderful eye specialist, Dr. Sullivan, replaced her opaque lenses with new synthetic ones and they will never be affected by diabetes again. Ruby is always ready to go biking, hiking, whatever is on the agenda, but be sure to take along the insulin, as she needs her shots twice a day.

If you would like to meet Ruby,

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# Vashon Solar LLC Promotion to Install Solar Panels at Harbor School

The chilly winter weather doesn't dampen the energy and enthusiasm of the Vashon Solar LLC group who are gathering interested parties to learn about solar incentives available to individuals.

State energy incentives are available through a community solar program. Vashon Solar LLC is such a program organized as an LLC ready to install a 9 kW solar panel array at the Harbor School on Vashon Island School District property.

Community Solar Projects are being organized and built all over the U.S. The idea is for a group of energy customers to invest in a solar array built on a public site in one's own community. The members realize re-imbursement and probably a little more on their outlay while supporting local solar production. It is an investment opportunity right here on Vashon! Poulsbo, Whidbey Island, Bainbridge Island, City of Winthrop and Ellensburg have Community Solar Projects up and running. Each project organizes its investment company a little differently.

The LLC will be a group of interested people who will join the community solar wave. The LLC will consist of the members of the LLC, a small Advisory Board, and a Project Manager/ Administrator. The host public site will be the Vashon Island School



District, located at The Harbor School. The Washington State cost recovery incentive program pays \$1.08 per kWh generated by a community solar project built with Washington made solar modules and inverter systems. VASHON SOLAR LLC is using made in Washington materials. The incentive payments are paid according to each owner's percent of ownership in the VASHON SOLAR LLC through June 30, 2020 when the program ends.

More information is available at [www.vashonsolarllc.com](http://www.vashonsolarllc.com). Over the course of the incentive program we believe owners can expect to get much of their investment back, support renewable energy for and on the island, and invest in solar even if it is not installed on their home. The public site host will get some of the value of the kilowatts generated, and can become the system owner when the incentive program ends.

Interested? Next meeting is February 24. Contact Gib Dammann at [gibd@comcast.net](mailto:gibd@comcast.net).



## Island Life

### The Spirit of Things

by Peter Ray

There is a stack of used salsa containers that continues to grow on our counter in the kitchen. As they have been thoroughly washed and air dried, they are not growing anything from any former food residue that might have been left behind after the contents were consumed. In fact, the only extra on them besides the color imprint telling of their former contents, nutritional value and place of origin, are sometimes bits of the second, redundant seal and cap that refused to let go of the rim of the vessel part of the container when it was first opened. That thin sheet of fossil fuel based plastic has long since passed into the waste chain. This stack of containers that remains sits atop a similarly clean and empty peanut butter jar, which is on the counter above the drawer that holds the silverware and an open-topped box that holds the rubber bands that sometimes arrive holding a pile of mail together. And that drawer is above two drawers filled with reusable shopping bags that help to keep the number of folded paper bags that occasionally show up full of groceries to a relative minimum and are now waiting for re-purpose in a dark and quiet corner under the sink. I could go on about the bottom drawer stuffed full of a variety of once-used plastic bags from the bread and produce aisles, but that might seem more obsessive than it is.

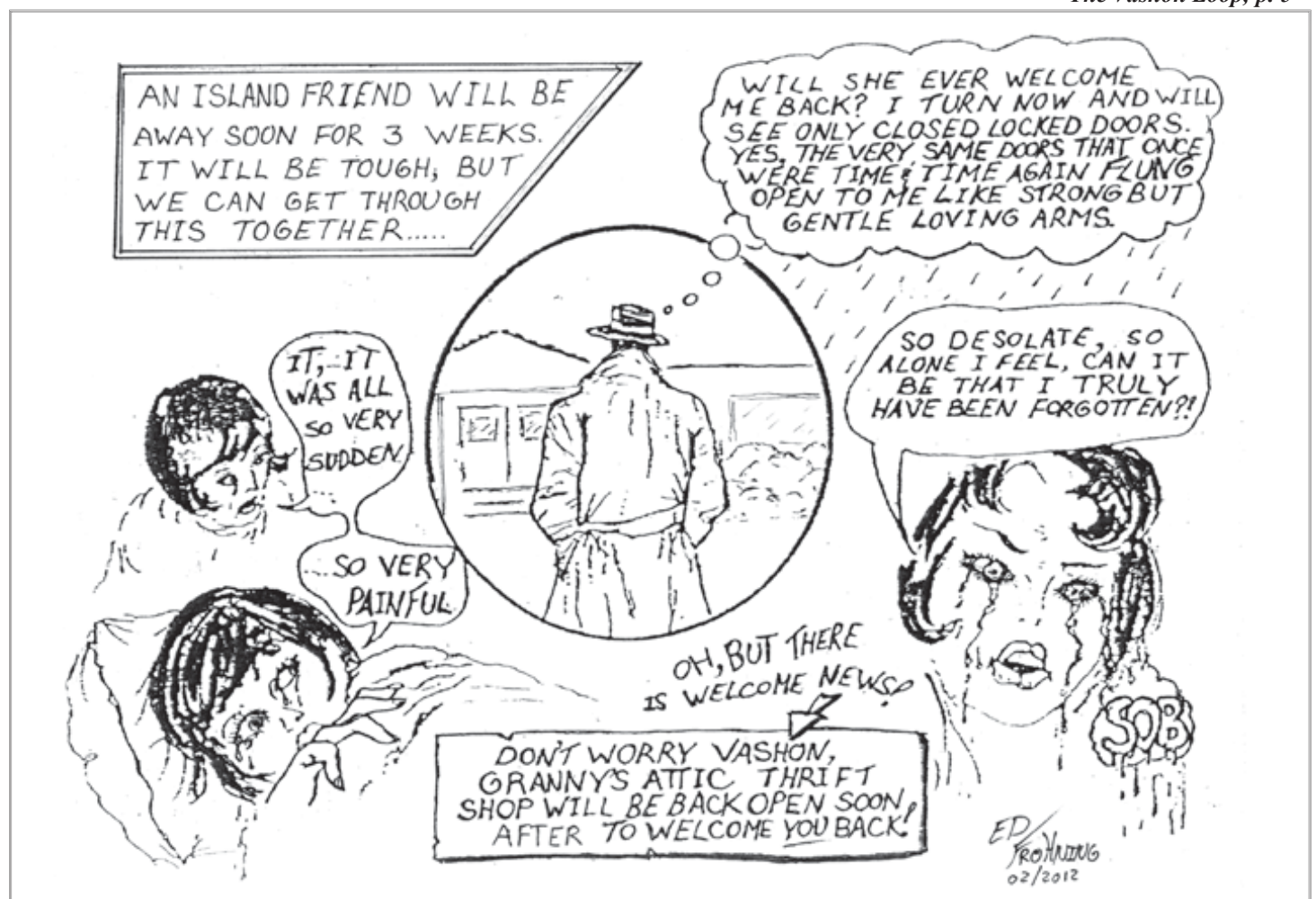
But then I look up and see the



stacks of empty plastic DVD and CD cases sitting atop shelves made from an old, solid but sprawling and unbending futon platform, and briefly entertain the accusations of being a hoarder. But the shelves are making order out of some of my chaos, and a used, folding wooden futon frame from Freecycle is now helping to optimize my limited space as well. The salsa containers at times are employed to contain leftovers, either edible or of a hardware type nature. They also have been known on various, and quite separate, occasions to have held bike chain degreaser, dried garden herbs and collections of pushpins, paperclips and wire nuts. As for the DVD containers, I am waiting there for more of an inspiration along the lines of Marcel Duchamp's Ready Mades. He was of course the Dadaist who attached a bicycle wheel to the center of the seat on a wooden stool back in 1913 and gave rise to the found art movement. One can only anthropomorphize about the thrill that a plain old castaway object might feel, leaving its dull and everyday, single-use but purposeful existence behind to become a part of something phantasmagorical, beautiful or just something quite a bit other than its original intention in life. On the other hand, I have come to realize that if

one waxes too poetically about the ecstasy of the inanimates, it is certain to bring one's sanity into question.

It is comforting, therefore, to find others who find value in seemingly valueless things. It is even grander when the valueless are in some way made to



## SPIN: Sooke (L112)

By Orca Annie Stateler,  
VHP Coordinator

Last February, we mourned the loss of Ruffles (J1), the eldest Southern Resident male orca. This February we mourn for departed youngsters. Precious little female Sooke (L112), 2009 – 2012, stranded at Long Beach, WA on February 11 and the new calf in J Pod, J48, is missing and probably dead.

L112's cause of death is undetermined. An internal exam



Sooke (L112), 2009 - 2012, with her mother Surprise! (L86). Photo © Mark Sears, Feb. 20, 2009.

"revealed significant trauma around the head, chest and right side; at this point the cause of these injuries is unknown," according to the necropsy report posted at [cascadiaresearch.org](http://cascadiaresearch.org). What is disturbing is that exposure to sonar or blast trauma are potential culprits for her injury pattern. Additional analysis of samples is required to verify how she died.

A Canadian Navy vessel plowed through Haro Strait blasting mid-frequency sonar early on the morning of February 6. Hydrophones on the west side of San Juan Island and at Port

Townsend detected the sonar pings -- see [orcasound.net](http://orcasound.net). Endangered Southern Resident and Transient killer whales were both in the area during the 24-hour period before and after the sonar incident. Stay tuned.

Sooke's loss is particularly ominous because L Pod desperately needs females. L Pod's family tree is alarming. Several L Pod matrilineal lines will die out from absence of any females or lack of reproductive females.

This week's photo pays tribute to

*Continued on Page 12*

to end there as well. As has been the case in the recent past, my efforts at re-purposing myself through video documentation have resulted in a two part visit to Fish Bowl Farm that gives a little more background to the program, along with a full visual tutorial of the tote bag construction process. A single link to the Feed Sacks to Tote Bags Facebook page will take you to where you can link to the YouTube videos and ask any further questions about the program. That would be here: [www.facebook.com/Feed-Sacks-to-Tote-Bags](http://www.facebook.com/Feed-Sacks-to-Tote-Bags)

As always, any inquiries going my way can be sent here: [pgr42@att.net](mailto:pgr42@att.net)

**Next Edition  
of *The Loop*  
Comes out  
Thursday  
March 1**

Deadline for the next  
edition of *The Loop* is  
**Friday, February 24**



# The Great Golden Buddha of Pu Tuo Shan

By Biffle French, National Rodeo Correspondent to The Loop

He looks like he’s had a hard life. There is no smile and no conversation. He tries to look out the window. I smear the frost with the curtain but it is so cold outside that the glass is instantly iced up again. “Kan bu chu”, I say. Can’t see out. “Ah,” he says, dimly realizing that I know some Chinese. We are fellow passengers on the blue bus bound to see the Great Golden Buddha of Pu Tuo Shan. They are pilgrims and I am a tourist, the only foreigner.

The bus stops mysteriously on the side of the freeway. Our tour guide wears a headset with a microphone that is connected to a large bullhorn strapped to his waist. He begins talking in amplified Mandarin and I strain to understand, but it is all lost. He might be telling us why we are stuck, or he might be giving important instructions or emergency procedures. Finally I hear “thirty-three meters tall” and I suppose he is talking about the Buddha. He talks for half an hour and that is the only phrase

I understand. Eventually the bus starts again and we are on our way.

We arrive at what I wrongly imagine to be Pu Tuo Shan and descend from the bus, following our tour guide who gives careful, painfully-loud bullhorn instructions in Mandarin. I don’t understand anything. He carries a flag on a stick and we follow it through the throng. We are led into a giant corral along with at least three or four thousand of the faithful. I am still the only foreigner, and I am the one person in the whole multitude who doesn’t have a clue what the hell is going on.

Our guide passes the flag to a minion and disappears on an errand. I hear “foreigner” from nearby voices, and I say “yes, that is me.” They are genuinely surprised that I know any words at all and immediately want more information. I tell them that I am married to a Chinese. “Do you also have an American wife?”

“No” I say wistfully, “One

wife is almost too many.” They nod in agreement and make knowing faces.

My seatmate and his spouse hover nearby. They have correctly decided that I am helpless and gently adopt me for the day. The Mrs. initially thinks that I really can speak Chinese and starts asking more complicated questions. I tire of telling her that I don’t understand and respond with whatever comes to mind, which confuses her at first, but she begins to accept it.

Our tour guide returns with handfuls of tickets. I don’t know what they’re for, but I follow the crowd and when he hands me a ticket I guard it with my life, expecting it to be very important soon. We snake into a chute, forced to single file by the narrow space. The room is enormous and full of similar chutes, all jammed with busloads of pilgrims. Our gate is thrust open and we sally from the building onto a quay where we jostle politely for seats on a large jetboat. I did not know there was going to be water, or boats. I had thought we were there already. The boat crew take my ticket.

We disembark on the real Pu Tuo Shan, which I discover is an island, and the tour begins. The Buddhists purchase bags of incense. I look for T shirts bearing the golden visage, but unaccountably none are on offer. “What a business I could do!” I imagine, seeing every possibility.

We begin climbing the long hill to see the Buddha and I catch an amazing and unexpected sight. There is a small naval base and centered in the gate is a muscular guard, dressed in black, armed with a machine gun, standing on a pedestal, and striking a most uncomfortable, but threatening pose. “This will be the photo of the trip!” I think as I capture him in the viewfinder.



“NO PHOTOS!” screams a sign just out of the frame. I expect to be arrested. The Buddhists look away and pretend not to notice my crime. They open up some range between us. I delete the image, trembling and imagining life in a labor camp. No one really knows where I am. I could just disappear.

The Buddha is the biggest statue I have ever seen. He is clad in pure gold. I calculate that Big Tex would barely reach his crotch. That image, Big Tex trying to reach the Buddha’s golden crotch and mumbling “Howdy Pardner,” is so disturbing that I try to force it out of my mind but it stays put like some bad Christmas carol.

The multitude hold burning incense in clapped hands and bow. I expect to hear chanting, but they chant silently, if at all. People crowd to throw coins into giant sculptured jars, hoping for their prayers to be answered. I want to ask why it is that Buddha tells us to lose earthly desire and yet the faithful are trying to buy prayer answers with mere money. But my Chinese is not that good and

I figure there must be a reason.

It is tomorrow, we are back in Ningbo, back at the Howard Johnson’s. We get a cab to the bus station for transportation to Shanghai, just a couple of hours away. I am in the tiny back seat. The taxi driver is a woman in her forties who talks loudly on her cell phone, cackling and screaming in mad laughter. My wife has a hard time getting her attention to tell her our destination.

We stop across from the bus station and I get out to retrieve the luggage from the trunk. The taxi immediately drives off with my wife still in the front seat and the trunk still closed. I run to catch it, coming up breathlessly. “You have to get in line,” says the cop who is managing the cab queue where they stop. “That’s my wife!” I say “And my luggage in back!”

“Oh,” he says, not surprised. Foreigners will do anything.

Biffle French is an author, photographer, wood artist and the National Rodeo Correspondent to The Loop.

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## Oscar Night

Continued from Page 1

Blad, the tile artisan responsible for the movie themed renovation of the theatre restrooms, and real-life Hollywood producer Pat Churchill.

Vashon’s Oscar Night will be hosted this year by some well-known celebrities from Hollywood and beyond. Rumors are flying that Jack Nicholson and Jim Carrey will appear for the island’s Academy Awards gala while a certain Princess with a memorable hat will be gracing our red carpet as well. The Washington State Fairies will return to serenade the audience at the party, and paparazzi Marty Schafer and Leslie McMichael will shoot live footage of the Vashon stars arriving on the red carpet. A favorite feature of Vashon’s Oscar Night is the screening of local clips on the big screen during commercial breaks from the Academy Awards broadcast.

Tickets for Oscar Night at the Vashon Theatre are now on



sale at the theatre box office, Vashon Bookshop and Brown Paper Tickets. Admission is \$10 all ages, and the festivities start at 4 pm when the Vandenplas Princess limousine from Seattle’s British Motor Coach starts to circle the block. The \$30 advance purchase Superstar Package provides more than \$5 in savings with admission, limo ride, paparazzi photo, dinner, dessert and beverage all included.

Also available for separate purchase at Oscar Night is an elegant catered dinner for \$8, Rotary Club will sell wine by the glass, and other beverages and snacks are at the theatre concessions counter during the show.

For more information, find Oscar Night at the Vashon Theatre on Facebook, call Vashon Film Society at 567-4768, or drop by the Vashon Theatre box office.





# Planet Waves

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



**Aries (March 20-April 19)**  
You seem to be in a reflective mood, looking back for a change rather than looking ahead. I think this is a good idea. You’re embarking on an important review of your recent relationships, and for that matter, all of your tendencies in relationships. That calls for some ongoing awareness and introspection. One thing on your agenda is making peace with your inherently rebellious nature. While the world needs people who are capable of shaking up the status quo (and you’re certainly one of them), this won’t work so well as a policy in your personal relationships. One key to happiness in this aspect of your life is choosing people against who you don’t have to rebel. It’s true that it can be challenging to find a balance between too much structure and not enough; you do need grounding and commitment, but lately your tendency has been to get into situations that crowd your space and your freedom. As the next few years go on, this is going to become more of an issue, so I strongly suggest you identify people who authentically honor freedom and creativity. For you, that means choosing substance over form.

**Taurus (April 19-May 20)**  
Venus is now in Aries, and this may be taking you on a quest for your lost self. Your whole life may feel like a recovery mission that has you venturing into strange or unfamiliar territory. I suggest you stay in these regions of yourself until you gain some familiarity with the environment you’re uncovering. You might have a tendency to want to move on and have things get back to normal, but normal is not what you really want, as far as I can see, or what will really serve you. In fact becoming friendly with what you might otherwise decide is downright strange would be more the way to go. It’s time to throw away all of your prior notions of ‘normal’ and ‘proper’ and habitual in place of a recognition of what is so. Be mindful of your rituals and do things differently every chance you get. Experiment with your methods of working, relating and most of all the way you take risks (or struggle to do so). You’re going to learn a lot if you do, and the information will help you make some crucial decisions shortly after your birthday.

**Gemini (May 20-June 21)**  
Your current focus on your professional life is about to intensify -- and you’re about to see whether your hard work has finally yielded any actual results. I have two suggestions. One is that you not only act and dress the part of success, but stand fully in the character of success. This is not merely about changing your affect; it’s about an internal shift where you orient on your goals. That said, there is a certain element of stagecraft that will come into play over the next week or so, where appearances will count for more than they usually do. You will be in a spotlight of some kind, and it’s essential that you work with this factor. It will count in both your visual appearance, the way you present yourself in spoken words and in writing, and most significantly the vibe that you put forward. Certain aspects indicate that you might be inclined to bend the truth or present two sides of a story; this is not the time to play any games at all with your integrity. Be clear and make sure there are at least two people close to you with whom you can reality check.


**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**  
With the Sun about to enter your

sympathetic water sign Pisces on Sunday, there is some relief on the way, though till then I suggest you keep your focus on partnership issues, particularly where a group or organization is concerned. You may have figured out that there are too many people in your life for your comfort, and too many of them have access to you and your resources. You cannot just walk away but you can get clear in every situation where there is a need to be clear. Once the Sun changes signs, that’s your clue to spend some time away from the reservation and see what’s going on somewhere else. This will provide a change of scenery and put you into contact with people more in harmony with your nature. One advantage I’ve discovered about getting near the ocean is that it’s possible to see out to the horizon. You can look at the water and in a glance, know the conditions of the atmosphere. Whether you do this metaphorically or physically amounts to the same basic thing.

**Leo (July 22-Aug. 23)**  
Over the next few days, the Sun is going to work its way out of Aquarius and into Pisces. Before it does that, it will make a trine (flowing 120-degree aspect) to Saturn. This is the story of working out a relationship issue, though you’re the likely partner to come up with the idea, and it may be the solution to a problem that nobody has noticed yet. Even if it seems to arrive at one ‘last minute’ or another, it’s not too late, as long as you notice what there is to notice and put the information to work as soon as you know about it. There is a risk that you’ll tell yourself this will be worth something tomorrow, and you’ll take care of it then. But what you’re about to get is specific information for a precise purpose and time. From there you can move onto subtler matters of emotions and what it means to connect with others. But once the Sun changes signs on Sunday, the premium on clarity and honesty with yourself goes up. The Sun conjunct Neptune suggests you may be trying to deny or idealize something. Balance that out with some realism.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)**  
There’s quite a bit of activity in your opposite sign Pisces, and with the Sun on the way that means there will be even more energy (and people) in your environment. I am sure that plenty of the opportunities seem appealing and some seem really intriguing. There’s just one little problem: if you’re in one of those moods where you don’t know what you want, then all the options and opportunities can seem meaningless -- and heck you might not even notice that they exist. Thing is, most of what you have open to you now is open to you now, not another day. So I suggest you have a talk with yourself and either decide what you want, or what you’re willing to experiment with. Part of how you can find out what you want is trying something, or someone, new. Despite whatever you may be feeling, or whatever frustrations you may be feeling associated with resolving a past issue, there are people around you who have some of what you want -- and if they’re not there yet they are very likely to show up soon.

**Libra (Sep. 22-Oct. 23)**  
You’ve been through a tense few weeks, and you may not be feeling any more confident or like things are heading in any better of a direction. I promise you, however, that you will be able to pull back from the edge and that you’re not being pushed into anything you cannot



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**March 9, 8:30pm**  
**VHS Senior Fundraiser**

handle. And events over the next few days will do a lot to reassure you that you’re not as close to the edge as you thought. You’ll feel more assured once you know that, and you’ll also feel less alone. There have been several moments the past week where you felt like you didn’t quite belong on the planet, but now even in the midst of similar circumstances, you seem to be aligning more closely with a source of nourishment. Also I would remind you -- and you soon may discover -- that you’re not alone in any way. But this will be more obvious over the next few days, as the Sun finishes its run through Aquarius and opens a few doors for you. One thing to keep in mind is that not only is there no rush; you’re in an important time of completions. Take those one at a time.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)**  
Your life has presented you with many ideas and possibilities lately, though often falling short of the best possibilities actually materializing. That said, your imagination has been venturing into some daring territory and you seem to allow yourself to consider some of the saucier possibilities, at least in theory. As the Sun enters your fellow water sign Pisces over the weekend, you’ll either have opportunities to go beyond merely thinking or imagining, or you’ll feel more compelled to actually experiment. You’ve yet to discover whether what you feel in potential and what you can actually manifest will have much in common. There’s always a difference -- we’re talking about two different realms, one of which is a lot more dense than the other, and where there are actual consequences of action. Just as with your imagination, it’s a good idea to open up to what you’re not expecting. That’s the one significant contact point between ‘fantasy’ and reality.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22)**  
You don’t need anyone else’s approval to make a decision. You may not recognize that you’re even seeking that approval. It may come in the form of ‘thinking like someone else’ or imagining what they would do. I suggest that you think like yourself, align with your own desires and needs, and make the decision that’s right for you. There’s a good chance that someone you know won’t agree with you, but what difference does that make? That person doesn’t have to live your life. As soon as you focus on your own intentions, and get centered about what is right for you, you’ll see how little the feelings of others matter. That said, if you can discern emotions from facts (both yours and anyone else’s), you might gain some clarity based on the actual data you become aware of. It will be an excellent exercise for you to stick strictly to the observable, verifiable facts. This won’t interfere with your intuition -- it will only strengthen it.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)**  
The job of any leader is to get people working together. Humans are motivated by making money and going to war, so you might say that the job of any humane leader is to find motivations that are neither destructive nor based on greed. That’s another way of saying honoring

life and what we do with it for its inherent value, which you have a gift for noticing and expressing at the moment. State the obvious both when writing and speaking. Get feedback and make sure people are onto what you’re talking about. It seems inevitable that you’ll be involved in some unusual depth or amount of written communication, and I suggest you begin any project by defining a clear strategy. The kind of writing you’re doing now is not about being inspired, though that would help. This is writing that has to work, like a sheepdog or plumber has to work. I’m not suggesting that you not use elegance or beauty, but rather that you set goals for your projects, so that you give yourself guidance and you have a way to measure whether your efforts are getting results.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)**  
Yours is the sign of groups, but you’re equally invested in one-to-one relationships. Recent developments in an intimate situation are suggesting that it’s time to get out and be among people. You may have a tendency in the opposite direction: to withdraw, close up and avoid groups. However, I think you’ll find that once you get into a wider space and meet some new people you will feel like your old self or perhaps some new self you’ve never quite met before. Meanwhile, self-esteem questions persist. I suggest that you not view this as a crisis, but rather as an opportunity for growth. If you’re experiencing doubt in any form, one logical answer to that is to seek some information that might confirm or deny whatever issue you feel up against. However, the planets strongly suggest you look for the source of the doubt itself, remembering that it may have no basis in reality. The truth is, you’re a more sensitive person than you let on, and your sensitivity is running at an all-time high. So, proceed gently and the truth will come to you.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
Many factors have contributed to your having an unusually confident grip on your life, one of which has been a measure of self-reliance. Another has been an intuitive sense of belonging and purpose. Both of these point to the kind of autonomy that will be the thing to focus on as the next four weeks progress. The Sun enters your sign over the weekend, beginning with a conjunction to Neptune, also newly arrived in Pisces. Your charts indicate a powerful empathy with people around you, and you have their attention in more ways than you recognize. But attention is not what you want -- focus, collaboration and a state of harmony are. Remember that your mission comes first and what others need comes second. I suggest you favor those who make themselves available and are willing to contribute positive energy and let everyone else do their thing. You are beginning what could be one of the most confident and creative years of your life, but the condition is living from the center of yourself and at the center of your world.

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



# Spiritual Smart Aleck



www.spiritualsmartaleck.blogspot.com

## Farmers and Artists

by Mary Tuel

It occurred to me the other day that there are similarities between being a farmer and being an artist.

My father was a farmer, as his father was before him. He raised apples out in Green Valley, just west and north of the Pajaro Valley, near the Monterey Bay. My mother raised my brother and me, kept the house up, and did the book keeping for the farm, and occasionally played the piano.

How is being a farmer/book keeper/mom a lot like being a singer/mom/house drudge (I prefer that term to homemaker)? You work at home, you’re at your job all day and all night, every day of the year, and while you do have a routine, the unexpected will always pop up.

For the farmer the unexpected most often takes the form of natural events: weather, critters, bugs, and disease. One more natural event out there in Green Valley was earthquakes. In 1906 there was a major earthquake on the San Andreas Fault. You may have heard about it. The epicenter was north of San Francisco, where the displacement between the two plates was over twenty feet. San Francisco got most of the publicity, but the quake affected Green Valley, about 100 miles south of San Francisco.

The quake literally moved mountains as well as the alluvial plain of the Pajaro Valley and one of the effects of that movement was that springs that had been there for as long as anyone could remember, including the Costanoan natives who were living there when Gaspar de Portola and Father Juan Crespi came barging through in 1769, dried up.

(Brief imaginary conversation on the banks of the Pajaro River in 1769:

Portola: Where the heck is Monterey Bay?

Fr. Juan Crespi: I do not know, but this is a good country, and we can bring these heathen natives to Christ.

First Costanoan: These guys look like trouble.

Second Costanoan: Let’s give them some of that acorn meal that we didn’t boil long enough.

First Costanoan: Ha ha.

But I digress.)

The springs drying up in 1906 was quite a shock for the farmers. The water found new outlets in new cracks in the earth, and farming went on, but that spring and summer was shaky in more ways than one.

Man made disasters also occur in farming. One year my father was offered \$27 a ton for his apples, and my mother explained to me that it cost \$35 a ton to raise the apples. My father sold his apples and ate the losses, but many farmers let their apples fall on the ground and rot that year.

Yep, any farmer can tell you about the unpredictability of farming, just like any singer, writer, artist, or mom can tell you about the unpredictability of their professions.

One thing farmers and artists have in common is that if you are ill, you don’t have a boss to lean on you about missing work. My mother enjoyed rude good health, but my father had, and I still have, migraine headaches. Holding down a regular job is a challenge for the migraine sufferer. When you work for yourself, you can make yourself work through pain and illness, but if you give in and lie down you don’t have to answer to anyone but yourself.

One thing I remember sharply is the contempt my parents had for artists. Farming = respectable work; art = goofing off. Farmers don’t have to put up with attitude about their work, even if they spend many days on the couch with a migraine, as my father did. Becoming a singer in the face of that contempt was tough, and the migraines didn’t help, but I had to give in and do the work for which I was suited.

Looking back, I realize that I became myself in spite of everything, as well as because of everything. Looking back, I can also see that, oddly enough, my parents, those stern Republican farmers, who tried to discourage me from a life in music, were proud of me in the end. Funny that.

### Vashon Library March Programs

**Tax Help for Low Incomes**  
Thursdays, March 01, 08, 15, 22, 29, 2012  
10:00am-12noon  
Professional tax preparer, Hilary Emmer, will help those with incomes of \$25,000 or less, prepare their 2011 tax forms. Free and no appointment required.

**Study Zone in the Library**  
Tuesdays, 4-6pm  
Wednesdays, 3-5pm  
Thursdays, 3-5pm  
Drop in for homework help from trained volunteer tutors. (No Study Zone during school breaks)

**Humanities Washington Speakers: New Land, North of the Columbia**  
Saturday, March 03, 2012  
3:00 PM  
Presented by Lorraine McConaghy  
Public historian, Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, draws from archival material ranging from maps, correspondence and public records to patent drawings, menus and paper dolls for a presentation that is highly visual and deeply engaging. The book New Land, North of the Columbia features nearly 400 documents, including a telegram to Washington Territory’s governor signed by Abraham Lincoln, the rough draft of Theodore Roethke’s “The Rose,” and a NASA map of Washington, shot by Landsat satellites. Richly illustrated by a colorful powerpoint presentation, this program explores the rich shared heritage of public archives, in Washington State, that document who we were, who we are, and who we might become. Discuss suggestions on caring for personal archives, including a list of printed and web-based resources.

**Great Books Discussion Group**  
Monday, March 5, 2012  
6:30 PM  
Adults  
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. March selection: Culture and Anarchy (selection) by Matthew Arnold.

**Vashon Toddler Story Time**  
Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012  
10:40 AM  
Ages 21 months to 3 years with adult.  
Enjoy a 20-minute program of stories and songs just right for toddlers.

**Vashon Preschool Story Time**  
Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012  
11:30 AM  
Ages 3 to 5.  
Please join us for 30 minutes of stories, songs and fun!

**Free ESL Classes**  
Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012  
6:00 PM  
Adults, Teens  
Presented by Rebecca Cullimore  
Learn how to speak, read and write in English. Free weekly lessons, beginning to intermediate level, taught by an ESL Instructor. During the class, homework tutoring is available in the library for elementary and middle school students of ESL families.

**Vashon Baby Story Time**  
Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2012  
10:00 AM  
Ages 3 months to 21 months with adult.  
Enjoy stories, songs, bounces and tickles just right for your baby.

**Friends of Vashon Library Meeting**  
Saturday, March 10, 2012  
10:00 AM  
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!

**Cuentos En Español Para Niños/Spanish Story Time**  
Fridays, March 16- June 1, 2012  
10:30 AM  
Presented by Xiomara Melgar  
¿Busca actividades de aprendizaje para sus infantes y preescolares?  
Si esta interesado en exponer a su niño/niña a un segundo idioma o si el español es su primer idioma acompañenos a un programa gratuito en español especialmente diseñado para los más pequeños.  
Cuentos acerca de colores, formas, animales, opuestos, y más!  
Hablantes de todos los idiomas son bienvenidos.


If you are interested in exposing your child to a second language or if Spanish is your first language join us for a FREE program in Spanish especially designed for little ones. Stories and songs about colors, shapes, animals, opposites and more! Speakers of all languages welcome. No registration required.

**The Life and Career of Placido Domingo, Part 1**  
Sunday, March 18, 2012  
2:00 PM  
Presented by Norm Hollingshead  
The Early Years (1941-1971)  
Mexican tenor Placido Domingo, made his professional operatic debut in 1961 at the age of 20. Now, 50 years later, at the age of 70, Domingo is still in the highest demand as a tenor in some of opera’s most demanding leading roles. The master of more than 125 operatic roles, Domingo also has recorded more than 60 complete opera recordings. In addition he is a respected and busy opera conductor and, the general manager of two important American opera companies. How does he do it? Come to this FREE 3-part lecture series presented by popular opera lecturer, Norm Hollingshead, who will illustrate his commentary with recorded excerpts from his own collection of recordings, many quite rare.  
Part 2: Sunday, March 25, 2-3:30pm, The Middle Years (1971-1983) and Part 3: Sunday, April 1, 2-3:30pm, The Later Years (1983-present). Funded by the Friends of the Vashon Library.

**Download Library Books to Your Kindle!**  
Monday, March 19, 2012  
6:30 PM  
Presented by Edna Bastien-Wennerlind  
Have a new Kindle or Kindle Fire? Find out how to download eBooks from the library. This class is hands-on so, bring your Kindle and your Amazon sign-in information which is your email address and Amazon password.

**Solar Energy for Homes in the Pacific Northwest**  
Saturday, March 24, 2012  
2:00 PM  
Presented by Jeremy Smithson  
Using solar energy, reducing energy use and driving electric cars has a huge impact on our economy and the environment. Learn how to achieve energy balance at home through conservation, efficiency and the use of solar energy. Technologies, costs, benefits and available incentives will be discussed.  
From the Master Builders Association Speakers.

**The Life and Career of Placido Domingo, Part 2**  
Sunday, March 25, 2012  
2:00 PM  
Presented by Norm Hollingshead  
*Continued on Page 9*

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# PANDORA'S BOX

Lots of goings on around here. Some very ugly dog beds have arrived, they are value priced at \$19.95. They are so ugly and so cheap you won’t mind when they get trashed.

On the bright side, we have a great sale on Wellness canned cat food. Buy 5, send in rebate form and get 5 for FREE!

Cheryl’s Pick of the Week: The very nice, not ugly, not too expensive beds that are shipping from Bellingham, but have taken 6 weeks. Still not here yet.

**(206) 463-3401**  
\$8 Nail trimming with no appointment  
17321 Vashon Hwy SW Big Red building w/Animal Stuff on the porch







Gourmet Dishes from Rumania

Traditional winter menus of Rumania rely on root vegetables and such meats as pork and goat. Trust me, goat meat is very good. It can resemble venison or lamb, depending on what the goat has been eating. But today’s main dish recipe features beef, more readily available in our meat departments than goat and less expensive than lamb.

When my late husband and I visited Eastern Europe in the autumn a few years ago, salads were as simple as a little pile of grated carrot or raw beet, or a few slices of pickled beet may be offered. As spring advances, young romaine appears there, shredded coarsely and dressed with olive oil. Vinegar and salt may be added, or not.

This beef stew is easy to assemble, cooks with little attention, and tastes delicious.

- RUMANIAN RAGOUT
- 4 servings
- ¼ pound smoked bacon, cut in ¼-inch dice
- 3/4 pound (.75 lbs.) stewing beef cut in bite-size pieces
- Dredging flour, see below
- 3 Tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups very coarsely chopped onion
- 4 carrots cut in 1-inch sections
- 4 thin parsnips, or 3 larger parsnips with woody cores removed; cut in chunks
- 4 large crimini mushrooms, chopped
- Seasonings:
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 1 Tablespoon fresh marjoram leaves or 1 teaspoon dried crumbled

- marjoram
- ½ Tablespoon dried crumbled oregano
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds, optional
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds, essential
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- Water
- Dredge the beef pieces in the flour mixture. Put them on a plate. Cut up the vegetables. Assemble the seasonings beside the stove.

In a wide skillet, render the bacon bits. Push aside. Add the olive oil. Brown the beef pieces on all side. Push aside. Stir-fry the mushrooms and onions. Add the carrots and parsnips. Stir. Sprinkle with the seasonings. Add water cover. Bring to a lively simmer, but not a full boil. (That would toughen the meat and make it take so long to cook that the vegetables would practically dissolve.)

Cook on medium low until meat is tender, about 1 hour. Taste and adjust seasonings to your taste.

DREDGING FLOUR: ½ cup white flour (may be sorghum flour—gluten free). ¼ cup cornstarch, 1 teaspoon salt, optional, ½ teaspoon coarse black pepper.

Accompany the ragout with a beet or carrot salad.

- BEET SALAD
- 4 servings
- 4 leaves romaine or green leafy lettuce
- 1 medium-size raw beet, well washed
- Sour cream or vinegar
- Dash sugar, optional
- Wash and pat the lettuce leaves dry between clean dishtowels or paper towels. Cut it in wide shreds about 2 inches long. Arrange ina circle around a plate.
- Grate the beet. Mix it with sour cream or vinegar to taste, adding sugar if desired.
- Pile in the center of the lettuce ring.
- PICKLED BEET SALAD: Wash and boil fresh beets until tender. Slip off their skins. Grate or sliver them. Mix with vinegar, salt and a sprinkling of caraway seeds. Chill for several hours or overnight, the longer the tastier.

Vashon Library March Programs

Continued from Page 8

The Middle Years (1971-1983) Mexican tenor Placido Domingo, made his professional operatic debut in 1961 at the age of 20. Now, 50 years later, at the age of 70, Domingo is still in the highest demand as a tenor in some of opera’s most demanding leading roles. The master of more than 125 operatic roles, Domingo also has recorded more than 60 complete opera recordings. In addition he is a respected and busy opera conductor and, the general manager of two important American opera companies. How does he do it? Come to this FREE 3-part lecture series presented by popular opera lecturer, Norm Hollingshead, who will illustrate his commentary with recorded excerpts from his own collection of recordings, many quite rare. Part 3: Sunday, April 1, 2-3:30pm, The Later Years (1983-present). Funded by The Friends of the Vashon Library.

Ian Dobson’s Pan Leggo Steel Drum Party Saturday, March 31, 2012 2:00 PM Presented by Ian Dobson Enjoy a tropical break in the middle of winter! Translated from Caribbean English, Pan Leggo means “steel drum party”. You will feel like you’re sitting on a sandy beach hearing these musicians play.

All ages welcome. No registration required.

Read Three, Get One Free This is a book-review-and-reward program that is available at any KCLS community library. Participating teens in middle school, junior high or high school may select a FREE paperback book for every three books read and reviewed.

Online Study Zone, Homework Help and SAT Tutoring Go to www.kcls.org and click on Research & Homework for 3 choices to help with homework: Live Homework Help (K-12, 2pm-midnight, 7 days a week), Study Zone Online (by Brainfuse, live chat and whiteboard functions) and MSP, HSPE, SAT Service Tutoring (by Brainfuse, 1-10pm, 7 days a week).

Ready-Set-Read! If you are in elementary school, take the Reading Challenge! Read at least 20 minutes per day for 20 days in one month and choose a new paperback book at your community library. Forms are available online at http://www.kcls.org/parents/kidsandreading/rsr/ and at the library.

We’ve Got a Lot of Kids by Kevin Pottinger They Call it Stormy Monday \*

But Tuesday’s just as bad. The only thing I’ve ever had against Sunday is that it’s followed by Monday, and nothing good has ever happened on Monday, throughout recorded history. I’ve confirmed this through personal research, decades of devout drinking. But eventually the research went into the ditch, like it often does; I was compelled to abandon it entirely.

Wednesday is worse, and Thursday’s also sad. The kids line up at the bathroom sink to brush their hair and teeth, and I wet a washcloth to scrub their faces in turn, streaked with backyard playground dirt and sticky-red Hi-C moustaches, rendering judgments on unfortunate choices of clothing. My decision, which is final, is that there will be no football gear or pink taffeta tutus worn to church at this time.

The eagle flies on Friday; Saturday I go out to play. We are always five minutes late. As I gun the minivan up Monument Road, waving to the regular Sunday morning walkers, my wife Maria applies eyeliner expertly in the visor mirror while simultaneously shushing our girls who have apparently devised a method of insulting one another using some sort of sign language; fully-developed fights erupt seemingly from friction in thin air.

Sunday I go to church, then I kneel down and pray. Our four kids are seated between my wife Maria and I, fidgeting, as our parish priest delivers an expert and quite engaging homily on personal salvation. Not one word of Father’s homily makes the slightest impression on our kids. He might as well be saying “rutabaga” earnestly, repeatedly. While the adults and most of the children in the pews are uniformly attentive, to our kids Father makes a sort of a faint buzzing noise when he speaks.

While our minds are preoccupied with heaven, the kids drum on the backs of the pews, pull each other’s hair, draw erratic self-portraits rendered in golf pencil in the

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hymnals, crawl over the kneelers with their buddies and a few plastic dinosaurs, and take off their shoes. And their socks.

At the altar Father silently raises the cup to heaven. In the quiet, a baby screams. From another part of the sanctuary another, separate baby cries: answering the call of the wild. Father forges ahead, delivering the consecration slowly and evenly despite the bleating infant tag-team. I suspect seminars teach masters classes on crying babies.

After the final verse of the final hymn including the final notes of the rather long instrumental coda, the kids race each other into the social hall, jostling for spots in line for Coffee Hour. Costco muffins, cups of apple juice, plus whatever kind parishioners have brought to share: fruitcake, Goldfish, gluten-free brownies. Often the harvest is plentiful.

They pile their small plates high with quartered muffins, cookies, spoonfuls of Goldfish; they stuff their cheeks with sweets and then race outside to play.

For the older kids it’s hoops with an underinflated red-white-and-blue basketball that bounces like a sack of potatoes, or pine-cone fights in the Rosary garden.

The five and six-year olds head for the fort in the blackberries, a vacant spot in the thicket where there aren’t blackberries, or most importantly, parents, and they climb into a low, little tree and discuss things.

My wife Maria and I catch up with our friends over muffins and coffee, and from time to time a breathless kid will run in with news that Alec slipped in the dog poop, or with one of their buddies in the slipstream, pleading earnestly, can we please have a playdate today?, gripping us with icy fingers, their cheeks red from the cold.

Parents appear from around the corner, shrugging their shoulders to say that whatever is arranged might be fine with them, our house or theirs?, and we swap schedules and find a pickup time. We load up the van with kids and head home, or out to brunch, with fresh eyes on the same-old world.

Sunday morning turns to Sunday evening, a school night, with the usual and customary storm forecast for Monday. And Tuesday? It’s just as bad.

\* “Call it Stormy Monday (But Tuesday’s Just as Bad)”, words and music by T-Bone Walker

Ferry Routes Discontinued

Continued from Page 1

for transportation expenditures, and the clock has been running down on available funds for transportation statewide ever since. The ferry system is as much a part of the state’s transportation system as roads and bridges. The legislature has, according to Ulatoski, been “applying Band-Aids” to all transportation issues for several years and has been unable to put together a workable transportation budget. Recently the problem has been exacerbated by the 2010 passage of initiative 1053 requiring a supermajority vote in the state legislature to raise taxes. The required unanimity of purpose amongst legislators necessary for forward progress on transportation budgetary issues has yet to appear. There are currently two bills in the Legislature, Senate Bill 6455 and House Bill 2660, which, if passed, would at least address the state’s transportation operation and maintenance funding needs, but passage does not appear likely at the moment. Other sources of funding for operation and maintenance are about to run dry. When the money runs out, ferries will begin to shut down.

Not until 2013 is a bill scheduled which would hopefully address the need of Washington State Ferries to replace six boats over the next 15 years.

Unfortunately, Vashon Islanders appear

to have become apathetic to the looming threat to the ferry system. It is possible that Islanders are failing to distinguish between mere rate increases and the actual destruction of the ferry system as we know it. Lobbying to keep ferry fares low is an almost continuous activity and may have resulted in a certain selective deafness to the current threat.

Additionally, in a relatively short period of time, the island has faced a number of high profile issues: Glacier Gravel, Marine Recovery Area, Critical Areas Ordinance, and most recently the Tacoma Smelter Plume and the fear generated by discussions of widespread arsenic and lead contamination in the soil. The Island is developing a sort of reputation for having a Disaster Du Jour. A sort of “leave it to the activists” mentality appears to be developing as a mindset in many Islanders at a time when ferry services are facing the greatest threat in their history and a widespread grassroots movement is perceived as a desperately needed remedy.

This coming Monday, February 20th, Kari Ulatoski is set to speak to the Vashon Maury Island Community Council on this issue. Islanders are encouraged to turn out en masse at the council meeting to become more familiar with the issue and to become actively involved in petitioning the Legislature in every way possible.



# Positively Speaking

## Miracles

By Deborah H. Anderson



We needed one didn't we? We needed that old man who was lost for days in the cold to find himself into an abandoned million dollar home and fix himself some food and go to sleep in a comfy bed after he'd changed into warm, dry clothes. After so many cancer deaths and tragic accidents have taken people who were way too young to die, we just needed one friggin' miracle.

You know what a miracle is don't you? It's when the ultimate good wins. It's when life is stronger than death. It's when the seemingly impossible becomes a reality and the experts are wrong.

This last month has been four weeks of miracles for me, one after another after another. It's been terrific. After running into so many walls and parked cars my nose was flat, I've experienced the unfolding of new opportunities I never would have imagined coming to fruition. In a heartbeat that which was negative has turned on a dime into that which is so life giving it gives me a whole new to do list.

I've experienced many miracles in my life. Mainly they have been healings. Other times the miracles have been relational. Sometimes they are just experiences that happened when they ought not to have.

We call them Kairos moments. That means, 'God is in charge' moments. There's a popular praise song that goes, 'You are God and I am not'. I know that flies in the face of people who think there is God in all of us. I think there is divine in all of us, but the biggest part of God is received only if I am willing to be open to miracles.

My four kids are all miracles. Their births were miracles, their adoptions were miracles, their lives as adults are miracles. This month is birthday month. Youngest daughter was this past Sunday. Ten days later, all in one week, is youngest son, oldest son, oldest daughter. I'm really sad every year they are too old and busy with their own lives to go back to the hospitals where they were born on the morning of the birth celebration like we did when they were kids. You can feed a family of six for under twenty dollars at a hospital cafeteria dontchaknow.

I had this column all written on their names and how they came to be and what they mean, but this week it seemed more appropriate to talk about the miracle of being alive.

I heard a lecture one time on physical miracles. The doctor, who was a leprosy expert, talked about what it took for us to bend and unbend our fingers to bend.... 'A true miracle.'

There are two things we can do to participate more fully in the miracles waiting to bless us. We can get out of our own way and we can grow more comfortable with being uncomfortable. When we stop doing the activities of self sabotage and degradation the chances of a miracle increase. Seriously. Then, when you have stopped hurting yourself or medicating yourself, you can hear, feel, and respond to the urge of the Spirit.

For example, I've had this book I've known I was to write for the last , oh, since 1994. I decided I was going to confess to my accountability groups ( two small groups of women professionals) that I had been avoiding it. They said, 'Buck up and sit down and write'. So... I pop out five handwritten pages. Bingo.... three days later there's so much going on in my life I can hardly handle it. It's called 'The Dove is a Dragon and My Feet are on Fire' and it's about the gap between church and faith and the new millennium. I'll try to get it finished fast and self publish so you can read it and tell me what you think.

Then there was the sugar thing. For years I've heard, 'give up added sugar'. So... same thing... obedience and bang.... three miracles in a row in consecutive days.

That second part about growing more comfortable being uncomfortable is the other important thing. When new things happen to you, good or ill, it's going to be uncomfortable for a while until the new is assimilated into the regular, the typical, the normal. Good stress is still stress.

I'm hoping you get a few miracles headed your way. It's a breath of fresh air to get a win, a 'yes' answer, instead of 'but if not'...

In this lovely midwinter thaw moment, let your soul soak up the possibilities of miracles the same way your face turns toward the sun in the brief respites from rain.

Love,  
Deborah



Want to read more of Deborah ? You can find her at three separate blogs:  
[www.onewiththerootbeer.blogspot.com](http://www.onewiththerootbeer.blogspot.com) Simple Parenting in Challenging Times is a blog for parents offering practical advice and observations on a raising children from pregnancy through the teens.

[www.mealsandmoments.blogspot.com](http://www.mealsandmoments.blogspot.com) Real Encouragement in a Virtual World is a blog for personal growth recreating those conversations that helped us grow around the dinner table. Musings and observations encouraging each person to push the envelope on how they can grow in healthy ways emotionally and socially.

[www.socialcontemplative.blogspot.com](http://www.socialcontemplative.blogspot.com) Under the Rock:Encouraging Faith Based Leadership is a blog for pastors and lay leaders eager to have more salt than shaker in their ministries offering spiritual development as opposed to the perpetuation of arbitrary or traditional church culture.

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Next Loop comes out March 1

# Team of Young Adults Beautifying Camp Sealth

and Performing Two Months of Community Service On Vashon Island

On January 10th, eight people from all around the country boarded the Rhododendron in their government issued van. These individuals were bracing themselves for two action packed months of community service at Camp Sealth on Vashon Island.

Well, it's been a month since we have arrived in town, and we love it here!

We are all apart of a team, Silver 1, and we serve for an organization called AmeriCorps National Community Civilian Corps (NCCC). We are specifically serving at Camp Sealth, a Camp Fire USA youth environmental camp, until March 8. Over 7,000 people per year participate in Camp Sealth's programs that have been promoting environmental education for children since 1920.

Our team is helping to prep the camp for the spring, summer and fall camp seasons. This involves ripping out several horse arenas and building new ones, moving several tons of driftwood, cutting down several more tons of brush and trees, creating brand new trails and paths, scraping literal tons of dead sea life off of the docks after disassembling them and dragging them out of the almost-freezing Puget Sound (and then reassembling and returning them back into the similarly freezing water two weeks later).

Basically, what I'm trying to say is: we have been quite busy. And we're just getting started!



On our days off, you have probably seen us volunteering around the community. We have been helping out at the Vashon Island Food Bank Farm and the Vashon Community Care senior living center. When not performing community service 60+ hours a week, you have probably seen us attempting to be normal humans at restaurants or coffee shops, but that is pretty rare.

Our team is an eclectic mix for sure, hailing from: Connecticut, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, Texas and Wisconsin. Some of us have our college degrees, and some of us have never been near a college. But our goal for the remaining month on Vashon is identical; finish all of our projects at camp strongly and efficiently, immerse ourselves in the community and history of Vashon, and leave a positive taste of AmeriCorps NCCC in the mouths of Vashon citizens.

Thank you city of Vashon residents for accepting us into your town for two months and sharing your lovely knowledge. We have experienced the bike in the tree, delicious coffee from The Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie, Perry's delicious burgers, an inspiring speech by Grethe Cammermeyer and a heck of a snowstorm that left us stranded at camp without heat or power. None of these things would have been possible anywhere but this majestic island you call Vashon.

Peace.  
- Craig Wiroll

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, national service program in which 1,200 young adults serve nationwide each year. During their 10-month term, Corps Members - all 18 to 24 years old - work on teams of eight to 12 on projects that address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development.

Members work on a series of different projects, typically lasting six to eight weeks each, to mentor students, construct and rehabilitate low-income housing, respond to natural disasters, clean up streams, help communities develop emergency plans, and address countless other local needs. The Pacific Region campus in Sacramento is one of five regional hubs in the United States and serves ten states in the western part of the country, as well as territories of Guam and American Samoa. The other campuses are located in Denver, Colo.; Vicksburg, Miss.; Perry Point, Md; and Vinton, Iowa.

In exchange for their service, Corps Members receive \$5,550 to help pay for college, or to pay back existing student loans. Other benefits include a small living stipend, room and board, leadership development, increased self-confidence, and the knowledge that, through active citizenship, people can indeed make a difference. AmeriCorps NCCC is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering.

For more information about AmeriCorps NCCC, visit the website at [www.americorps.gov/nccc](http://www.americorps.gov/nccc)

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Road to Resilience

Continued from Page 1

on the maintenance of our roads. We need to imagine a future with more limited services from the county and the state. Although nobody knows what the future may hold, we in Transition Vashon would rather err on the side of caution by building resilience into our community. We can contribute to this personally by learning to be more resourceful, living more simply, and keeping most of our transactions closer to home. Besides, every crisis is really an opportunity to change for the better. We could all benefit from a community conversation to arrive at a common vision for Vashon, and to use our imagination and creativity to the fullest to build resilience into our future. It will take some time to build the trust and understanding we will need to work from. For this reason, I have been interested in what the All Island Forum has been trying to do. They began meeting about a year ago after the mass resignation of the Community Council Board. It had become apparent that a better way had to be found to resolve conflict and make decisions. Rather than trying to resolve a problem within an hour of opposing statements and a vote, they have opted for a more casual, respectful exchange and discussion of positions,

and allowing the conversation to continue through as many sessions as it takes to work toward agreement. Most of the time, the County will go along with a community decision if it is clear and has broad support as long as it doesn’t have serious financial implications. The important thing is that we address our own future and arrive at plans uniquely adapted to our situation. The All Island Forum will be holding their second event, “Vashon: What Really Matters To You?” on Monday night, February 27th, 7-9pm at the Open Space. Join friends and neighbors to share ideas about the character and future of Vashon. They want as diverse as possible a group to attend this. If you feel that your interests have not been heard, they want you there to blend your ideas into the community pot. At the end, we will all decide what we found out and where we want to go from there. It should be fun and informative. Hope you can make it. The Food Security Group will have its second session on emergency food storage, “Three Month Supply Basics,” on Sat., Feb. 18, 10am-12pm and Mon., Feb. 20, 7-9pm. Although now full, call Cathy Fulton at 463 5652 to inquire about any openings.

Comments  
terry@vashonloop.org



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Amanda Knox

Continued from Page 1

work after the vigil, there were nearly 100 messages waiting. The delight in the voices of my friends was a precious gift, we had suffered with Amanda’s family and now we celebrated with them. Everywhere you look in my hometown is a Cheshire Cat grin. Seattle’s local media did something unprecedented the day Amanda arrived home, after an initial interview they told the family they were leaving to honor the request for privacy and then to the amazement of the national and international media they packed up the trucks and left. The US media followed suit the next day and the Italians left a week later. The British have never left and they are paying the paparazzi to follow Amanda and Raffaele. What little press you’ve seen in the past few months has all been yellow journalism. The tabloids decided Amanda was a celebrity; she never made that choice for herself. She hates being famous for this tragedy and she has never pranced in front of a camera like a Hollywood starlet, yet the tabloids are still making up \*insert expletive\* stories. Because the US media stepped back, it was exceptionally easy to track that England’s Daily Mail has bought most of the paparazzi pictures and authored most of the stories which are mostly incorrect. Although I’m sure it’s a joke, I’ve recently heard chatroom gossip that indicated if the paparazzi “don’t leave soon” the “Anonymous” folks are going to jump in front of the cameras and block their shots. The Occupy Razzi people need to take their pictures too, I think it would be hilariously funny to see a website devoted to unmasking the stalkers. Many wonder what is next for the families. First, Amanda can never be extradited because the Burden of Proof is on Italy for the capitol crime, second Slander is non-extraditable and third Amanda and Raffaele are free to travel wherever and whenever they please. Fourth, they are all very happy. They will chronicle their experience with a book, interviews and perhaps a documentary or movie, but in their own time. Amanda would like to travel to Italy in the future; she knows it was only a few people in Perugia that harmed her, not all of Italy. She respects and is grateful to the Italians that came to her aid and someday she will replace the last four years with delightful memories. Raffaele had plans to travel to the US before this happened and I know many would welcome him in these United States. Since Amanda and Raffaele were not at the apartment when Rudi Guede, a burglar, killed Amanda’s roommate Meredith Kercher, not even God can prove that they are guilty of the capitol offense. Neither Amanda nor her parents have to personally attend court for the Slander charge. They do, however, want the process to move forward so people can see that Amanda did not lie, that coerced statements taken from an Illegal Interrogation were used against her and that she was abused during that interrogation. They want the parties who broke laws to be brought to justice. In the meantime the case has advanced to the higher courts and we have confidence that Rome will make sure justice prevails, not someone’s icky fantasies. When you sweep away all of the lies

and focus solely on the legitimate evidence, it is really easy to see that Rudi Guede is the killer and his version of events was manipulated to implicate Amanda and Raffaele. Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States have signed the Vienna Convention and this treaty is a Safety Net for every citizen, plus each country has their own bylaws regarding legalities with a host nation. The US the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM), for example, regulates the American embassies while maintaining agreements with the Vienna Convention. The embassies, in turn are required to know the laws of the host countries and report any deviations to Washington DC in the form of a Protest as outlined in 7 FAM 426: Protests. The American Embassy in Rome should have seen a Red Flag when Amanda became the second American targeted by Perugia’s Public Minister Giuliano Mignini himself in an 18-month period. Several Protests should have been filed on Amanda’s behalf with the State Department; so far we have not found any, only a few threadbare dispatches, none mentioning FAM laws broken by the Perugians. Italy’s constitution assures that its legal system “conforms” to “international law” to protect foreign nationals, but this law was also broken for Meredith Kercher’s true killer to be ignored and for Amanda to be illegally imprisoned. Raffaele was deprived of his “inviolable rights” as a citizen of Italy. PM Mignini actions reveal that he was aware he was breaking laws and all three counties should have been aware of the transgressions. The Supreme Court should have intervened four years ago, but injustice in Perugia continued unabated. Relevant to everyone traveling, and especially to parents with children studying abroad, this complete collapse of the Safety Net in Italy exemplifies official neglect and should frighten every taxpayer. Neither Amanda nor her family thought they would be abandoned by both the Italians and the Americans to suffer bankruptcy at the hands of the Perugians, the very same people whose legal budget is paid for by the Italian taxpayers. The Italian Taxpayers have spent millions on this case. We taxpayers want to know what happened to the Safety Net. I hope both the Italian Supreme Court and the US Department of State will address this issue. And I’d also like to know why the British are allowing their own citizens to be abused by the Perugians, like everything that was done to Amanda and Raffaele, there is a subtly to this abuse, a delicate twisting of a law here or there to obtain what PM Mignini desired. Illegal interrogations, solitary confinement, mental abuse, 11pm instead of 9:30pm, “Go back and find evidence,” “Oops, that darn Power Point!” During the last week of the Appeal, the prosecution left us with one final example of their “respect” for Meredith. Her nude corpse, from her Brazilian to the terrible wound in her neck, was shown in open court. Twice. Showing autopsy photos to the pubic is expressly forbidden but, after four years of compliance and in the 11th hour, the prosecution pretended to “fumble” the Power Point Presentation. Two days in a row. The same horrible picture.

*The Vashon Loop, p. 11*

The entire court witnessed the prosecution act like jackasses. Even their pet reporters were shocked by this dirty trick. Too bad Meredith’s family and friends never saw any of it or they would have been as angry as the Knox and Sollecito families. It’s been obvious to us for some time that the Perugians were keeping her family out of court so that they could play out this farce to the max, because no victim’s family would ever put up with the soap opera that we were forced to watch. This shocking display of disrespect was the last straw, if no one would stand up for Meredith, then Amanda’s family would. Edda Mellas and Deanna Knox, Amanda’s mother and sister, walked out of the courtroom in protest on the second day of being subjected to the offense, their anger directed at the prosecutors. I am witness to concern for Meredith by Amanda’s family and friends; there has never been a time when we were not angry with how the prosecution treated the Kercher’s. Do I even have to go there about how they treated Our Kids? Seattle endured this nightmare, a child in a foreign prison, with patience and grace but the world would have heard us if the Perugians had been allowed to continue this mockery. The Loud Crowd, those legendary souls whose volume can shake tiles from the ceiling and elicit grumbling from opposing sports teams, have been telling everyone who would listen that all we wanted was Fair Play and it’s not wrong to expect that from a friend. We are forever grateful that Italy agreed. And what is up the Nationalism Card? Trollarazzi be damned; this case should not be used to trash talk our three countries. Between our corrupt governments, corrupt judicial systems, corrupt banking systems, dumbass wars, backbiting politicians, bratty citizens, sex, drugs, rock n roll, beaches, a love of food and the hotly debated “Whose Accent is Cutest?” you can hardly tell where one country ends and the other begins. However, this tragedy has affected Seattle’s travel to Italy, many are now vacationing elsewhere and children are forbidden to attend any university there. I think that is incredibly sad. We also became suspicious of our embassies, but just when I thought bureaucrats were the same worldwide, our Malaysian embassy proved me wrong. Last year a friend became gravely ill while on vacation. As his mother ticked off the ways the embassy officials helped her family, I ticked off in my head where those bylaws were located in FAM. Unbeknownst to her, I had just read the entire document while researching “American Embassy Fail” for the Vashon Loop, part of an investigative series for Curt Knox’s hometown. Amanda’s experience brought home many examples of the corruption and good in our global society, but the most shocking to me was how the media brazenly abused these innocent people; it demonstrated why citizens need to hear news directly from the source before judging. Seattle really knows Amanda Knox, not the Perugians, not the British. So, dear readers, you must now choose where you get your information. Straight from the Horse’s Mouth or some Ass?



# Lil’ Rev Concert on Vashon

This concert is an expanded version of a house concert where attendees come together to enjoy their friends and family, and hear local and traveling Musicians up close and personal. The next concert is Lil’ Rev. It will be at the Vashon Theatre Sunday, March 18th, between 2-4 pm. Lil’ Rev hails from Wisconsin, and is a master musician. He plays the Uke, Guitar, Harmonica, Mandolin, Banjo, and many other instruments. He plays everything old timey - blues, folk, and swing styles. If you want to check Lil’ Rev out before deciding to come, or you want a wonderful interlude to your day check Rev out on youtube or his website [www.lilrev.com](http://www.lilrev.com). I have been to a number of Lil’ Rev’s concerts and I always have a great time as I get to catch up with friends, enjoy



great tunes, hear some music history, and enjoy laughter and smiles. There is a \$7 charge for this event. I am really looking forward to this event and I hope you can join us.



## Espresso Latte and Wisdom To Go

**Monday - Friday 5:30am - 3:00pm**  
**Saturday 7:00am - 3:00pm**  
**Sunday 8:00am - 2:00pm**  
17311 Vashon Hwy Sw

## The Dorsal Spin

February 16, ‘12

Continued from Page 5

a cherished life cut short. In February 2009, when she was just weeks old, Mark Sears took this intimate photo of Sooke (L112) snuggled up to her mother Surprise! (L86). Sooke was likely still nursing at the time of her death.

Between February 5 and February 10, Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) associates documented three remarkable killer whale encounters in Vashon-Maury waters. On February 5, a group of 15 Transient orcas cruised north in Colvos Pass. I spotted some familiar whales among them. Matriarch T124, about 45 years old, and her offspring have visited Island waters regularly since 2008. T100, 34-ish, and her offspring are also return visitors. The Transients traveled precariously close to four Dall’s porpoises and a Steller’s sea lion – potential prey species. That may account for why the stealth hunters were silent on the hydrophone.

On February 9 and 10, an intriguing combination of 13 Southern Resident orcas traveled slowly up and down East Passage. On February 9, the four K Pod members and nine L Pod members meandered south through the Vashon-Fauntleroy ferry lanes and then changed direction at Dilworth by late morning, traveling north toward Bainbridge in the afternoon. Based on observed behavior,

reports from VHP spotters, and the orcas’ exceedingly slow pace, it is possible that these whales were traveling with a newborn. We urge anyone with decent orca photos from February 9 or 10 to email images to [Vashonorcas@aol.com](mailto:Vashonorcas@aol.com) or call 463-9041.

Odin and I saw the 13 orcas at Point Robinson on February 10 but could not confirm the presence of a newborn. L Pod whales were closer to the point: L2 (Grace) and her sons L78 (Gaia) and L88 (Wave Walker); female L5 (Tanya) with male L84 (Nyssa); Ino (L54) and her three offspring L100 (Indigo), age 11, L108 (Coho), age 6, and L117, born in 2010.

The youngest whale observed in the group of 13 was L117. L117 still has faintly peach-tinged white markings and is about the size of Springer when she was here in 2002. A newborn would be noticeably smaller, with bright peach markings.

Whether or not the K Pod orcas farther offshore had a newborn with them remains a mystery. The younger K Pod female in the group, 27 year-old K16 (Opus), is a viable candidate for prospective Mom. She has a son K35 (Sonata), age 10. Sister and brother K40 (Raggedy) and K21 (Cappuccino) were also in the mix.

Three females in this grouping are close to age 50 and allegedly post-reproductive: L2

(Grace), L5 (Tanya), and K40 (Raggedy). Raggedy, 48-ish, has never been seen with her own calf. Sometimes these older gals give birth but the babies do not survive.

So far, we have only seen photos of the L Pod members who were here on February 9 and 10. L112’s (Sooke’s) immediate family members were not among them. The 13 Southern Residents did not venture into Colvos Pass; they departed Vashon-Maury waters by February 11.

Please support the work of the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP): REPORT LOCAL WHALE SIGHTINGS ASAP TO 463-9041. We are deeply grateful to ferry riders, crew, and Islanders who call us directly. Your timely reports are tremendously helpful to our on-Island research effort. VHP associates are your neighbors, with decades of experience observing and documenting orcas and other marine mammals in Island waters. The VHP collects acoustic, photographic, and observational data in a precautionary, sustainable manner and does not endorse invasive methodology for studying endangered orcas. Call the VHP about seal pups as well as dead, injured, or sick marine mammals on Island beaches. Check for updates at [www.Vashonorcas.org](http://www.Vashonorcas.org) and send photos to Orca Annie at [Vashonorcas@aol.com](mailto:Vashonorcas@aol.com).



# Quartermaster Inn & Restaurant

Join us as we wind down three years of fun, fabulous food, and foot fatigue.

Our restaurant will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from 5 to 9 through March 18.

If you’d like to come in on a different night, give us a call.

We have music every night!

The Inn will remain open seven days a week until March 30.

206.463.5355    [www.quartermasterinn.com](http://www.quartermasterinn.com)  
In the heart of Beautiful Burton By the Sea...



# Heron's Nest Grand Reopening with new Manager and new look

By Janice Randall

Heron's Nest invites you to their grand reopening celebration First Friday, March 2. Heron's Nest, Vashon Allied Arts' retail uptown store, located between Blooms and The Tea Shop, provides a retail outlet for a wide variety of fine art and handcrafted items created by Island-based and regional artists on consignment basis.

VAA recently hired Ellen Parker as Heron's Nest new manager. Parker brings an extensive background anchored in local arts and crafts-related retail experience and the creative business world. Heron's Nest will be closed from February 15 until March 1 for a store facelift and reorganization.

"During this season of rebirth, we refocus the mission of VAA's art & crafts retail space to support Vashon artists and craftspeople. If you are an artist and have yet to share your work by consigning at Heron's Nest, we'd love to hear from you," says Parker.

Parker and her husband, Jason



Staczek and six-year-old Ivy love living on Vashon. "My family is a family of artists and I know we have found our niche here on Vashon."

# Indie Rockers Make Music to Dr. Seuss

By Janice Randall

Kindie Rock is alive and well in the Northwest. From Caspar Babypants to The Harmonica Pocket, kid-friendly indie rock is making entertainment news as music savvy kids and their parents demand hip, g-rated tunes.

Since 2004, The Harmonica Pocket (Keeth Monta Apgar and Nala Walla) have been creating their family-style music. "I began writing songs and singing for the kids before naptime," says Apgar, a substitute pre-school teacher. "After getting tired of telling parents I didn't have a kids' album, I decided to record." Mary Macaroni came out in 2005, and they continue to redefine kid music, using sitar and tabla on O Susanna and reggae to teach kids to count.

The Pocket pays homage to American icon Dr. Seuss, in their Vaudeville-style Vashon debut, with an interactive approach to get children and their grownups singing and moving. Setting a handful of famous and lesser-known books to music, the audience is invited to sing along to Dr. Seuss's ABCs, One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish and to help



save the Whos on a giant speck of dust. Expect swinging story-songs, hula hoops and a suitcase of props with wah-wah guitar, ukulele, jaw harp, washboard percussion, harmonicas (of course) and invented instrument, the Hinklehorn (part kazoo, part plumbing fixtures). Get Loose with Dr. Seuss!

The Harmonica Pocket  
Sunday, Feb 26, 2 pm  
VAA  
Tickets: \$5 (12 & under)/\$7 VAA members, seniors, students/\$10 general  
VAA, Vashon Bookshop,  
www.BrownPaperTickets.com

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

Law Offices of  
**Jon W. Knudson**  
Parker Plaza \* P.O. Box 229  
**Bankruptcy -- Family Law**  
463-6711

**Get In The Loop**  
Send us your Art, Event, Meeting, Music or Show information and get included in The Vashon Loop.  
Send to: [Editor@vashonloop.com](mailto:Editor@vashonloop.com)

Find the Loop on-line at [www.vashonloop.com](http://www.vashonloop.com).

**Next Edition of The Loop Comes out Thursday, March 1**

Deadline for the next edition of The Loop is **Friday, February 24**

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

**Lopy Laffs**

## Moose Lake

© Copyright 2010 Steve Krueger

**STONEWALL PIVOTER :**  
Island philosopher and High Mystic - he ascends on rare occasions from his West Side sanctuary.

**V.I.P.S.**

Today he has been invited to deliver a highly-crafted address to education and parent groups about the new Politically Correct concept of **LOCATION DIVERSITY**. **LOCATION DIVERSITY** is the egalitarian notion THAT NO LOCATION IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER.

What're you? Nuts??

## LOGJAM

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[logjamcomic.blogspot.com](http://logjamcomic.blogspot.com)

HAWLEY



Weekend Entertainment February 17

BluMeadows

Blumeadows was gifted by God and the Earth mother. He is a descendant of the Mississippi Choctaw Nation and is a ‘magda vehu’, which means ‘Black Indian’. He discovered the magic of music through his voice and guitar, which he picked up left-handed, at an early age and has been determined to follow an unbeaten path. Listening, learning and playing with all of his timbre he ventured out into the rock and roll clubs as a teenager touring with Rudy Hunter and the Fabulous Tones, a show band. Blumeadow’s appetite to perform blossomed but he was summoned by his mother to finish his formal education. Moving from Iowa to Seattle he completed the three R’s ‘reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic. He already had rhythm. When he completed the mandatory chores he ventured out into the world of creation at the Cornish Institute of Performing Arts where he studied musical theory and composition. It was a blessed time where Blumeadows combined what was in his heart and head so he could reveal his soul.

He entered the music scene in Seattle as a precocious musician with a lot to offer. He could play bass, guitar, sing, write and accompany other artists.

He performed throughout the Northwest with Dave Lewis, Pete Depoe (Last Walking Bear) and Red Bone but felt stifled. He moved to Los Angeles, as so many musicdians do, and found comfort with artists that appreciated his talents and heritage. He wrote, recorded and played with Liquid Jesus on MCA Records and



performed with Grammy Award winner Bruce Hornsby. Blumeadows played with Branford Marsallis, Eddie Hazel, the great Funkadelic guitarist, as well as Spacey T, from Sound Barrier and later Fishbone. On one magical night the stars aligned and as a tribute to the Astro Rock Father Jimi Hendrix, Blumeadows fronted a magnificent band called Krunchy that included Spacey T, Eddie Hazel, Stanley E., and Bernie Worrell. A bootleg tape of that seminal gig still gets raves from collectors.

In the end, Blumeadows returned to Seattle where he felt his fertility would seed. To list the musicians Blumeadows has performed with begs the point. To talk about the past is moot. It’s the dawn of a new day and Blumeadows is where his soul can roam.

Friday, February 17, 8pm. At Sportsmans Inn, 17611 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-0940

WATER, an evening of Poetry and Spoken Word

Friday, February 17, 7pm  
Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie, Vashon Minglement  
19529 Vashon Highway, 206-463-9672.

Portage Fill

The Portage Fill Big Band is celebrating 39 years of playing music this year. The band was formed in 1973. The group is comprised of 18 musicians and 2 vocalists and they play songs from the Big Band era. This includes songs from Glenn Miller, Count Basie Orchestra and many more.

Portage Fill has been working on some new charts from Michael Buble, Chuck Mangione and one of the groups favorite arrangers, Sammy Nestico.

The charter member of the group, Lou Engels, still plays trumpet with the Portage Fill.

The Portage Fill Big Band practices twice a month in the Williams Heating garage. You can find them on Facebook by searching for Vashon Island Portage Fill Big Band.

Saturday, February 18, 8pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959



This show will be a benefit to raise money to help pay for archiving the Portage Fill library of music. They have 18 books with 345 songs in each. If one of those books was lost it would be catastrophic. With an archive, they could restore the books. The cover charge for this show is \$5.00 per person. Donations will be accepted.

DJ Atomik

DJ Atomik Saturday, February 18, 9PM to 12AM. At Nirvana Indian Restaurant in the heart of Vashon Island. There will be half price appetizers, drink specials and we hope our guests will get up and dance.”  
17526 Vashon Highway SW, 206-463-4455

Katrina Kope



Katrina Kope, front woman of Soul Kata, will be joining forces with Men for Common Sense, a local Seattle jam band, to bring you Kope originals and music inspired by you! This will be a night of sharing original songs along with making some up on the spot. If you are a musician/singer, you are welcome to join in on the fun if the spirit moves you. If you are an audience member, be prepared to help come up with song titles!

Katrina Kope has been involved in the Seattle music scene since 2001 singing with her soul band Soul Kata, Reggae band Leisure Sound, seattle based hip hop/funk bands Irikandji and Role:One, and performing jazz as the Katrina Kope Quartet as well as performing jazz duets with Jose “Juicy” Gonzales. You can check out her music at [www.katrinakope.com](http://www.katrinakope.com).

Friday, February 25, 8:30pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

Music at Nirvana

Nirvana Indian Restaurant in the heart of Vashon Island, is hosting two music events this month. Nirvana owner Rohit Sharma says “this Saturday, DJ Atomik will transform the front of the restaurant by creating a dance atmosphere with lights, fog and music for dancing. There will be half price appetizers, drink specials and we hope our guests will get up and dance.”

On Saturday February 25, Seattle-based Adrian Xavier will bring his reggae, soul and world music to Nirvana for a free concert. Xavier’s music crosses social and cultural barriers, helping provide deeper understanding of our global community.

Pacific Northwest Inlander says “Seattle’s Adrian Xavier is a reggae musician in the grandest traditions - exploring themes of pacifism, wanderlust, and the glory of religious experience and natural wonder. He incorporates elements of soul, dub, hip-hop, and rock ‘n’ roll into his shows. Xavier’s brimming over with authenticity and danceability.”

“Adrian Xavier’s music lifts you up and makes you feel like you can achieve greatness. If you can catch Adrian at festivals like Bumbershoot and on hipster radio KEXP, you’d be wise to do so! His album Miracle is just what you need to

lift your spirits” writes The Highway Girl.

The music Adrian Xavier delivers taps into a positive space that invites all people to expand their vision. Adrian Xavier has performed around the world and billed with Jimmy Cliff, the Wailers, Eek-A-Mouse, the Black Eyed Peas, Public Enemy, John Legend and Kanye West.

DJ Atomik Saturday, February 18, 9PM to 12AM

Adrian Xavier, Saturday, February 25, 8PM to 12AM

Nirvana Indian Restaurant, 17526 Vashon Highway SW

Reservations and info at 463-4455 and [NirvanaVashon.com](http://NirvanaVashon.com).

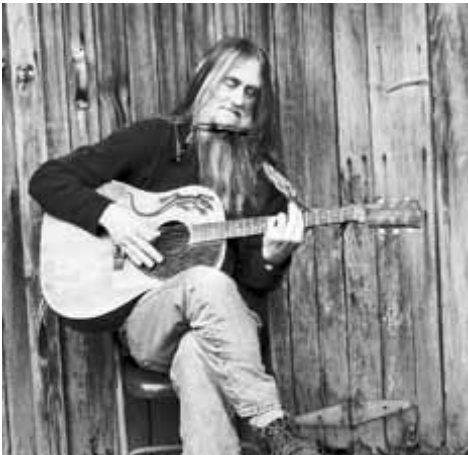


Ron Hook

The man, the myth. Mysterious, captivating.....ever so talented, this man will lay down his funky grooves and make you forget about your troubles....

Front man for the infamous island band, Subconscious Population, Ron has earned the respect of many-not only with his amazing ability to play many different instruments so well...

Friday, March 2, 7pm  
Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie,  
Vashon Minglement  
19529 Vashon Highway,  
206-463-9672.





# Lelavision bring sound and light to stage

By Janice Randall

VAA’s first New Works Series 2012, presents Lelavision’s latest endeavor “Harvesting Light.” A musical-sculpture installation/performance event, Ela Lamblin and Leah Mann perform Harvesting Light with Island guest artists Jason Staczek (composer), Lynelle Sjoberg and Abby Enson (movement artists). Two performances offer an earlier, abbreviated kid-friendly interactive performance, followed by a full length show.

Harvesting Light centers on a large scale electro-acoustic instrument, the Photosynthesizer. Featuring 24 blown glass resonators, Lamblin created the instrument at Tacoma’s Museum of Glass. The electronically activated acoustic instrument plays like a glass organ and is a beauty to behold. Choreographer Leah Mann will combine movement with Lamblin’s musical sculptures to create a multi-sensory unified experience of kinetic, aural and visual art forms.

Inspired by ideas about light--the sun as energy source, hidden potential

of photosynthesis and light within or illumination of soul, “Harvesting” seeks to de-light, shed light and celebrate return of light. “It’s about community rituals; we create a little world, a particular ambience,” says Mann.

Lamblin says, “Sculpture is something to breathe life into, to give a voice in song. My building blocks are sculptural form and space, sound and music, and kinetic, exhilarating movement. My ideas revolve around fusing these elements together, with Lelavision as their vessel for expression.”

Lelavision toured to Canada, Japan and Germany in 2011. “We are particularly looking forward to performing in Chile in our 2012 season,” says Lamblin.

VAA New Works  
Lelavision “Harvesting Light”  
Family Show: Saturday, Feb 25, 6 pm  
Tickets: \$7/\$10  
All ages, full length show: 8 pm  
Tickets: \$12/\$15  
VAA, Heron’s Nest,  
www.BrownPaperTickets.com

# Open Mike Night VHS Senior Fundraiser

Students at Vashon High School share their talents at the Red Bike’s Open Mic Night on March 9th at 8pm. The evening will be hosted by VHS seniors Sage Everett and Yusuf Griffen, who will entertain and introduce their peers performing music, comedy, magic, poetry, dance and more.

As the evening progresses, VHS musicians will join with adults in a jam session hosted by Island musicians Todd Zimberg and Maggie Laird. Whether you’re a regular attendee of the VHS open mics or brand new to the scene, don’t miss this one! You will be impressed by the wealth of student talent right in your midst.

All proceeds benefit the VHS Class of 2012. Audiences need to be forewarned some mature content might not be suitable for younger viewers.



# Clinton Fearon with Sarah Christene

Always a crowd pleaser on Vashon Island, Clinton Fearon & The Boogie Brown Band is coming back to the Red Bicycle for a winter performance of his roots reggae music this Saturday night. If you like roots reggae, this is a show you won’t want to miss. Clinton Fearon has quickly won the hearts of many an Islander and will pack the dance floor with moving bodies.

Much like quite a few other reggae musicians who came of age in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Clinton Fearon was a country boy who migrated to Kingston as a teenager in order to seek his musical fortune amongst the proliferating studios and sound systems of the big city. He was born in St. Andrew in 1951 and moved around the countryside with his father and stepmother before relocating to Kingston in 1967; he immediately organized a singing group with some friends, but it never amounted to anything and broke up before it could record. It was around 1970, when he joined Albert Griffiths and Errol Grandison to form the Gladiators, that he hit his stride as a musician, and began what would be the most significant and commercially successful association of his career.

Flash forward to 1989, when Clinton came to Seattle and co-founded The Defenders and then finally in 1993, formed his own group called The Boogie Brown Band.

When asked about his music, Clinton states that “...our sound is roots, its roots, lovers rock, rock steady. It’s not too far from the root. I’m not trying to branch off into anything I’m not totally relaxed with,” he continued. “A lot of (other bands) try to follow the market. I try to follow my creativity more so than follow the market. It’s what’s in your heart; you have to follow your heart.”

Clinton Fearon is counted among Jamaica’s most talented musicians by peers and professionals in the Reggae music industry. His infectious bass riffs have always led the way, whether he is playing bass, guitar or percussion, singing lead vocals or providing background harmonies.

Opening up for Clinton Fearon is Vashon’s own Sarah Christine. Whether she is gracing the stage solo acoustic with guitar in hand, or backed by a full band, Sarah Christine’s soulful siren captures attention. This Northwest native weaves a positive musical tapestry, blending



her rich honey voice, conscious lyrics and uplifting melodies with the flavors of reggae, rhythm & blues and soul. This gifted singer/songwriter delivers heartfelt messages of oneness, the power of love and the infinite possibilities of clear intention. Classically trained in voice and self taught on guitar and piano she has spent the past 12 years composing and performing. Sarah’s voice has been heard throughout Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii and has been an on-stage presence at numerous festivals including Northwest Reggae Fest, Sierra Nevada World Music Fest, Conscious Culture Festival, Bumpershoot, Seattle Hempfest, Northwest Folklife and many others. Sarah has contributed live and in-studio vocals to various artists such as Publish the Quest, The Crucialites, Adrian Xavier Band, Prezident Brown, Jah Levi, Essential I, Indigitize, and Rau to name a few. She is also featured on a major label release of an all female compilation of U2 covers entitled ‘In the Shadows of U2’.

Preparing to release her first full album entitled “Free From Fear” due out in early 2012, Sarah is laying the groundwork to share her passion with a global audience. Sarah currently teaches private voice instruction and group workshops where she guides people to tap into the power of their own unique voices. Her vision is to travel the world and spread music that inspires and encourages people to live to up to their fullest potential. Her recent two month trip to Jamaica with her husband and three children set the wheels in motion for many more musical adventures to come.

The show begins at 8:30pm, the cover is \$10.00 and it is an all-ages event ‘til 11pm, 21+ after that. The Red Bike has experienced sold-out shows with Clinton in the past and anticipates the same for this one, so it’s highly advised that people buy tickets in advance by calling 463-5959 or by purchasing them in person at the Bike.

Friday, March 3, 8:30pm. At the Red Bicycle, 17618 Vashon Hwy - 206-463-5959

# Allison Shirk

Allison grew up traveling back and forth between Texas and Washington State and now makes her home on Vashon Island. Her songs take life experience and weave stories to which people can connect. She describes places and people that linger in your mind long after the song ends. Heartache with a sense of humor and stories of life in the country are prevalent in her songwriting. Allison gives a provocative performance - haunting, sultry, and sincere.

Friday, February 24, 7pm  
Vashon Island Coffee Roasterie,  
Vashon Minglement  
19529 Vashon Highway,  
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### Hugo - Feb 24



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Deadline for the next  
edition of *The Loop* is  
**Friday, February 24**

### Vashon Theatre

**17723 Vashon Hwy**  
**206-463-3232**

For show times and info check  
[www.vashontheater.com](http://www.vashontheater.com)  
*Best Rural Movie Theatre*  
*2010- Seattle Weekly*

### Care Packages Sought for Fallen Soldier's Platoon

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

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

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

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



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