

The Mirabella Monthly

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APRIL 2024

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STOP AND SIP THE FLOWERS

BY ELSTON HILL

On my morning walks, I tend to stop and meander more than I did two-and-a half years ago. The result is that I am seeing more wildlife than I did when I first started posting my photographs to my friends and neighbors at Mirabella. The same is probably true of life. If we just slow down, we will see more good things and will be more likely to ignore the things that annoy us.



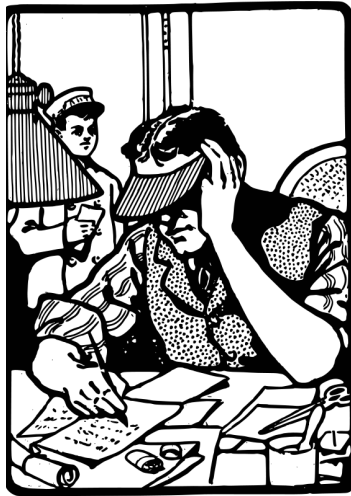
Anna's Hummingbird – photo, E. Hill

BOWING OUT ♦ LOOKING IN

MY FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT

By Jared Curtis, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of *The Mirabella Monthly*

The December 2024 issue of *The Mirabella Monthly* will be the last one I will oversee. The newsletter has been our village gathering



place for fifteen years, earning an award for “excellence in publication” in each of the last seven. My decision need not be the end of *The Mirabella Monthly*. If others wish to continue the newsletter into 2025 and beyond, and if I am invited, I will act as coach to help smooth out the rough spots until their operation

is running smoothly. *The Mirabella Monthly* will no doubt take on the shape and style of the new leaders’ aims and hopes for it, perhaps under a new name and with a new look. Such decisions will be in their hands.

For me, it has been a good run. The enthusiasm of Mirabella residents for their newsletter has always lifted my spirits. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and untiring efforts of the volunteers: my associate editor, copy editors, proofreaders, and production crew. The support I have received from the Mirabella Residents’ Association, its Council, and the Mirabella Seattle Administration has been a great encouragement and asset from the very beginning. And, best of all, to have been able to act as the conduit for some wonderful articles and stories by our talented residents has been an inexpressible joy to me.

I take this step with some regret, but with considerable pride in the path *The Monthly* and its family of helpers have followed over the years. Thank you all.

WAYS OF LOOKING

BY SALLY HAYMAN

We were early for *Swan Lake*. The aisles to our seats in the orchestra were not open yet. We had left the busy open promenade in front of the Opera House and were in the Kreielsheimer Lobby behind the orchestra seats. I had gone by Michael Spafford’s big mural based on Wallace Stevens’s “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” many times, acknowledging it, but not really looking at it. Now I had the gift of time.



“Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” (1985) by Michael Spafford, Kreielsheimer Lobby, McCaw Hall, between entrances to Aisles A and B – photo, M. Rogers

As I looked over the series of images, I wondered what had prompted Spafford to choose that as his theme. The poet, Wallace Stevens, made his living as an insurance executive in Hartford, Connecticut. Living in a big white classical colonial home, he wrote poetry in the evenings. In 1955, the year he suddenly died, he won the Pulitzer Prize. Spafford, a mild-mannered and much respected art professor at the University of Washington, achieved a certain

POET'S VISION REFIGURED

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amount of notoriety when his mural of *The Labors of Hercules* was kicked out of the Washington State Legislature (in Olympia no less) because of the blatant male nudity of his classical subjects. His work even stirred up a small kerfuffle here at Mirabella when he and his son, Spike Mafford, had a show early on in our history.

Two unlikely soulmates, poet and painter.

At home, I took down the volume of Wallace Stevens's works I had read during college. The great thing about reading poetry is that it does not demand a big chunk of time. Just the thing to read stretched out on the couch after lunch. I read several of his poems, but though sixty years had passed and I enjoyed the skillful use of meter and rhyme, I still couldn't tell you what the poems were about. ZZZZZZZZZZ.

When I woke up, I saw things differently. Stevens really is the painter's poet and vice versa. Many poets manage to say things freshly, but Stevens makes you see things in a new way. Spafford's work illustrates Stevens's poem perfectly. The job of the artist is to take meaning out of a subject and reconstruct it visually. The beginner usually takes a subject, say a vase of flowers, and draws it in the middle of the paper. The artist looks at the whole picture plane, positive and negative space. He turns shapes into cubes or cones, or sometimes flattens the figure and ground into a pattern.

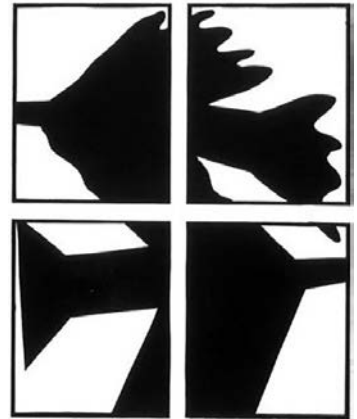
You may remember those psychological tests or puzzles in black and white in which a face can be discerned either as happy or sad. The images are equal and can work either way for you with just a click of perception.

Why does Stevens find thirteen ways to look at the blackbird? It's an arbitrary choice, showing the freedom of the poet to pick a number, any number. Why "Nine bean-rows" in Yeats's famous poem,

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree"? It proves the freedom of the poet/artist to move in any numbers. The blackbird itself is not a metaphor or a symbol, just a subject to be explored. Sometimes it is moving, sometimes it is out of the picture. Which does he prefer, the poet asks, "The blackbird whistling/Or just after?"

Another nice thing about poetry is that it stretches the brain, or just teases it into other ways of looking. Next time you pass Spafford's blackbird prints on the way into Aria's gallery dining area, try to find ways of looking at something that seems so clear in black and white but suggests different meanings.

Or as Joni Mitchell used to sing: *I've looked at clouds from both sides now/From up and down and still somehow/It's life's illusions I recall, I really don't know clouds, at all.*



"Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," woodblock print no. 6, Michael Spafford – Aria Dining Room


VI

Icicles filled the long window
 With barbaric glass.
 The shadow of the blackbird
 Crossed it, to and fro.
 The mood
 Traced in the shadow
 An indecipherable cause.


Stanza VI of "Thirteen Ways of Seeing a Blackbird" by Wallace Stevens

WHO DOES WHAT AT MIRABELLA


RESIDENT COUNCIL, 2024–2025 COUNCIL & RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION MEETINGS




Mike Waring,
President, 2023–2024,
Box 527, x 1585,
urbandoc@hotmail.com




Julia Wan, Vice
President, 2023–2024,
Box 1110, x 1852,
juliawan1@gmail.com




Cathy Short,
Secretary, 2023–2025,
Box 1118, x 1860,
cathyashort@gmail.com




Alice Arrington,
Treasurer, 2022–2024,
Box 800, x 1749,
alicebelle6@gmail.com




Nancy Eliason, Member-
at-Large, 2023–2024,
Box 715, x 1842,
nleliason@gmail.com



Jane Beer, Member-at-
Large, 2023–2025,
Box 734, x 1747,
lil_jane@hotmail.com



Janice Kaplan-Klein,
Member-at-Large, 2023–
2025, Box 830, x 1779,
jkreachtr@earthlink.net



Louise Lowry, Member-
at-Large, 2023–2024,
Box 607, x 1684,
lklowry@aol.com

Residents’ Association Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 11 am in Emerald Hall. Resident Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 am in Conference Room A. Residents are welcome at all Council meetings.

RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES & CHAIRS, 2024

For a committee meeting time & place, consult the calendar, contact the chair, or go to [MIRANET SEATTLE>Groups>Committees](#)

Committee or Group	Chair/Cochairs	Contacts
Active Arts	Barbara Porter Tricia Brink	Box 902, x 1885 Box 600, x 1677
Art	Linda Berkman	Box 513, x 1861
Dining	Gail Temple	Box 1002, x 1820
Emergency Preparedness	Matt Jamin	Box 1028, x 1635
Employee Appreciation	Sally Hahn	Box 1120, x 1755
Environment & Facilities	Nickie Askov Jerry Smedes	Box 1116, x 1858 Box 1021, x 1617
Finance	David Webber	Box 1122, x 1864
Health and Wellness	Bob Lewandowski	Box 408, x 1731
Library	Martha Oman	Box 501, x 1642
Lifelong Learning	Pat Harris	Box 524, x 1600
Mirabella Seattle Foundation	David Webber, Chair	Box 1122, x 1864
Nominating	Laura Bailey	Box 432, x 1813
Outside Activities	Míceál Vaughan	Box 434, x 1639
Program	Sally Hayman Kitty Dow	Box 828, x 1640 Box 517, x 1658
Welcome	Sue Herring	Box 709, x 1556

HAPPY HOUR HEALTH HELP

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RESIDENT SERVICES

Bri Bailey, Resident Services Director

Community Happy Hour

Tuesday, April 23; 3–4:30 pm, West/Northwest

Dining Room

Residents are invited to enjoy a Community Happy Hour hosted by Resident Services. Please come, enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres, and mingle!

Health Clinics Available to All



The following clinics are being held for Independent Living (IL) residents in seventh-floor Suite 726, accessible from the A elevator. Please do not go to the room unless you have a scheduled appointment. Do not bring food or drink with you. For questions, please contact Bri Bailey, x 1418, or bnbailey@retirement.com.

Podiatrist

Thursday, April 4; 8:30 am–3 pm, Suite 726

Dr. Mak Abulhosn, DPM, is available in Suite 726 for morning appointments for IL residents. Health Services residents will be seen in their locations after lunch. For appointments, call Mercer Island Foot and Ankle at (206) 275-9117. You will need to bring Medicare and insurance cards and fill out all necessary paperwork at your first appointment.

Audiologist: Seattle Hearing Services

Tuesday, April 9; 9:30–11 am, Suite 726

Dr. Patricia Munson offers hearing assessments. For appointments, contact Patient Care Coordinator/Office Manager, Seattle Hearing Services at info@seattlehearingservices.com or at (206) 937-8700.

Foot Care Clinic

Third and fourth Monday and Tuesday, Suite 726;

call for appointment and fee schedule

Bonnie Ackles, RN, CFCS, is a former Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner who is also a board-

certified Foot Care Nurse Specialist. Foot Care Clinic is held on the third and fourth Monday and Tuesday in Suite 726. For appointments and rates, call or text Bonnie Ackles, RN, CFCS, at (206) 940-0748.

Counseling Service

Wednesdays, weekly by appointment only

Janelle Jensen, MS, LMF, is a marriage and family therapist in the Seattle area and will act as a resource for therapy or family consultations or support. She has professional experience in adult mental health, aging, memory loss, and family caregiver support. She works with residents experiencing grief, loss, changes in health, anxiety, and depression. She can consult with families to help them understand dementia and other age-related changes, care options, navigating healthcare systems, caregiving roles, long-term planning, and similar issues. She is available on Wednesdays for in-person visits and can also be reached via telehealth and email. She offers private-pay family consultation or therapy (\$150 for 30 minutes, \$170 for 45–50 minutes). For information or to schedule an appointment, email Ms. Jensen at janellejensentherapy@gmail.com.

Massage Appointments

Wednesday and Thursday; 8 am–5 pm; Saturday and Sunday; 10:30 am–4 pm, Suite 726

Susan Stein, LMT, is available for massage services. Call x 1421 to schedule an appointment.

Acupuncture

Tuesdays and Fridays; 9 am–4 pm, Suite 726

Jennifer Lewis, MTCM, LAC, is available for acupuncture services. Call x 1421 to schedule an appointment.

Health Center Respite

Mirabella offers respite stays in the health center when a caretaker/spouse needs a rest or needs to be away from home and his or her partner/spouse

MAKING ART ◇ MAKING MUSIC



requires care. Room and board are covered under the temporary stay program for a maximum of ten days in a calendar year, although respite stays can certainly be longer if a resident wishes to pay privately for additional days. All admissions to the health center require a physician's visit, an order to admit, and other clinical documents to be submitted prior to admission. For more information or to schedule a respite stay please call Quynh Truong, Health Center Admissions, at x 1455. If a resident prefers to have in-home care provided during a spouse's time away, that would be an alternative to the health center. Home care does not require the same documents prior to establishing care but is not covered under the temporary free stay program and therefore is a private pay cost.

Max Kuhlman, Health Services Administrator

ACTIVE ARTS COMMITTEE

Tricia Brink and Barbara Porter, Cochairs

So, You Think You Can't Act with Charles Kocher

Fridays, April 12, 19, 26; 11 am–12:30 pm, Conference Room A; limit twelve; registration required

Mirabella Resident Charles Kocher says he discovered he could act “not long after the dawn of time.” After earning his MA in Theater Management and his MFA in Acting and Directing, Charles spent many years working in community theater.

If you join the class, Charles does not guarantee you will win an Oscar, but he does guarantee you will learn, grow, and enjoy.

You will also quickly come to enjoy Charles's sense of humor as he closed his acceptance to teach a class with: “So, here you have it. I do not want to go into a long list of what I did and where. Then I'd

have to explain my years in prison.”

Sign up while there's room. You won't want to miss this “dramatic” opportunity.

Drawn to Watercolor II

Thursdays, March 28 and April 4, 11, 18; A 11:30 am–1 pm, B 1:15–2:45 pm, Art Studio 507; registration required; limit ten; materials fee \$45 for those who need them

Once again Maja Serada takes us into the mystical world of watercolor. You can add to what you know or start from scratch. Maja is patient and is very willing to help each person at his/her own pace.

Origami

Fridays, April 12, 19, 26, and May 3, 10, 17; 2:30–3:30 pm, Art Studio 507

Makiko Doi and her wonderful assistant, Sally Hayman, will once again guide residents into the tricky detailing of paper folding resulting in the art of Origami. Makiko will provide the paper.

Creative Writing: What You Don't Know

Friday, April 5; 11 am–12:30 pm, Conference Room A

Creative Writing with Janée Baugher continues going strong. Come and join. All are welcome. Bring pen and paper.

Ukulele

Wednesdays, 11 am–12 pm, Conference Room A
Our Ukulele Class continues, but the class members would very much like to help teach new players. Believe it or not, all but one of the current class members started as a beginner. If you need to buy a ukulele, Barbara Porter, x 1885, can help you choose. She also has a soprano uke you can borrow before you choose to buy.



EYES HAVE IT ♦ FREE BOOKS ♦ LEARN FOR LIFE

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HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Bob Lewandowski, Chair

Advances in Vision Restoration with Dr. Russell Van Gelder

Monday, April 29; 3:30–4:30 pm, Emerald Hall



Dr. Russell Van Gelder

Dr. Van Gelder will discuss some of the cutting-edge research occurring at the University of Washington Department of Ophthalmology and at the Roger and Angie Karalis Johnson Retina Center. He earned his BS,

MD, and PhD from Stanford University. Following an internal medicine internship at Stanford, he completed his residency in ophthalmology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University in St. Louis and his medical retina and uveitis fellowship at the Barnes Retina Institute. Since 2008, Dr. Van Gelder has held the Boyd K. Bucey Memorial Chair and is Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Washington. He is Director of the Roger and Angie Karalis Johnson Retina Center in South Lake Union. The program is jointly sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Committee. Coordinator: Bob Lewandowski.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Martha Oman, Chair

Books-To-Go

Tuesday, April 16; 1:30–4 pm, Mirabella Library

At this special April “give-away” event in the library we will have large tables with books that have been “weeded” from the library collection available for you to browse and take as many as you wish. The

only rule is that *you may not return them* to the library! During the event, Mirabella Dining Services is providing cookies and coffee in the Bistro.

Everyone is invited to come, look over what’s offered, collect any “treasures” you find there, and enjoy refreshments.

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Pat Harris, Chair

OLLI-UW April Zoom Lectures

The Israel-Hamas War in Perspective

Wednesday, April 10; 12–1 pm

Pre-registration Zoom link: https://washington.zoom.us/join/register/tJwkcuyrjqsEtca_r8k3bM4j-GdJpskhl5I

How did the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis come into being, and what is the background of the current war? This presentation by Alan Dowty will be an analytic overview with focus on Gaza and Hamas. Alan Dowty is an affiliate faculty member at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies and Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame.

A Woman for the Ages

Friday, April 26; 12–1 pm

Pre-registration Zoom:

https://washington.zoom.us/join/register/tJMLf-yopjktE9VSMBDhaXAYUzdG9_lpwwLh

Journalist, author, and lecturer specializing in Jewish history, Andrée Aelion Brooks will relate the unlikely tale of Amelia Bassano: the shadowy woman behind Shakespeare and his canon. Her presentation just might change our traditional image of Shylock and the original goal of *The Merchant of Venice*.

Andrée Aelion Brooks, formerly a contributing columnist for the *New York Times*, is an Associate

FROM TLINGIT ART TO iPhone TRICKS

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Fellow, Yale University, and founder of the Women's (political) Campaign School at Yale. She has published several award-winning books. Her website is <https://www.andreeaelionbrooks.com>.

Explore Indigenous Art by Preston Singletary with Rebecca Albani

Monday, April 8; 10:45 am–12 pm, Emerald Hall and Zoom

Renowned Seattle-based glass artist Singletary (born 1963), though a generation younger than Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, is in many ways a more conventional artist. His motifs are often traditional, although fashioned in the novel medium of glass. Singletary trained first in European glassblowing, working with masters such as Benjamin Moore and Dale Chihuly, and he then spent time with elders in the Tlingit community, learning the stories and artistic expressions of his grandmother's Tlingit heritage. He considers himself a custodian of culture, interpreting the timeless stories of his people for a new audience. Singletary frequently returns to the legend of Raven and the Box of Daylight, the subject of a multimedia installation that has travelled the United States and includes some of his most daring pieces. Yet, while his work may approach subjects like water rights and distribution of wealth, it does so in a lyrical, allusive way very different from Smith's brash confrontation of the legacy of violence against Native Americans. Coordinator: Sylvia Fisher.

Resident Revelations: Peek at the Past and Look to the Future

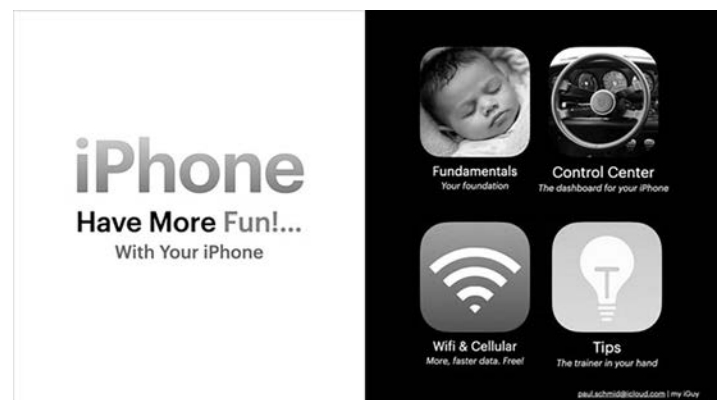
Tuesday, April 9; 3:30 pm, Emerald Hall and Zoom
Founded by Carolyn Blount and happening on the second Tuesday of most months, the Resident Revelations program has been a popular Emerald Hall event. Join me as I present a "snapshot" of past Resident Revelations along with brief descriptions and explanations. This presentation will include a look at a variety of talks that have been presented—

life stories, careers, and revelations focused on a resident's life event, topic of passionate interest, or travel experience.

The April program will provide excerpts from previous presentations as an invitation to all residents to contribute their voices to the series. While you may think your life is humdrum, others may find your experiences and life adventures fascinating. Consider sharing your story with Mirabella residents in the near future. A successful presentation does not require pictures, but if have some you'd like to include, help is available to prepare and show your pictures. Please contact me with your questions or to volunteer as a presenter. We will soon be setting the schedule for the coming months. Coordinator: Judy Waring, x 1585, judywaring@comcast.net.

Do More While Having Fun on Your iPhone

Fridays, April 12, 19, 26; 3:30–4:30 pm, Emerald Hall and Zoom



Paul Schmid worked for Apple Inc. for six years. During those years he taught thousands of people to get the most from their smartphones while having fun. He currently offers personalized online classes on Apple devices under the name iGuy. While Mr. Schmid won't be giving personalized classes during these two lectures, he will share many ideas about effective ways to use iPhones while having fun with them. Coordinator: Pat Harris.

EYES AGAIN ◇ TAKE A HIKE ◇ BOARD A BUS

APRIL 2024

Leading Causes of Blindness

Monday April 15; 3:30–4:30 pm, Emerald Hall



Dr. Miel Sundararajan

Keeping your eyes healthy is a critical task at midlife and beyond. Dr. Miel Sundararajan, an ophthalmologist at the University of Washington Medical Center, will share the latest science in addressing common eye diseases facing older adults.

Dr. Sundararajan was accepted into the eight-year Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program, completed her BS in Bioengineering, and then went on to graduate from Baylor College of Medicine with High Honors. She completed her ophthalmology residency at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and then pursued two consecutive fellowships at the University of California at San Francisco and at the Francis I. Proctor Foundation for Research in Ophthalmology. The program is jointly sponsored by the Health and Wellness Committee. Coordinator: Bob Lewandowski.

Hiking the Old Milwaukee Railroad Right-of-Way

Wednesday, April 24; 3:30–4:30 pm, Emerald Hall and Zoom



Judy Bentley

Judy Bentley is a retired South Seattle College instructor, historian, hiker, and author. She will discuss hiking opportunities on the new “Palouse to Cascades Washington State Park Trail.” In 1980, Washington State

purchased the 100-foot wide, 290-mile-long Milwaukee Railroad abandoned right-of-way stretching from Cedar Falls near North Bend to the Idaho border south of Spokane. Washington State Parks is converting the right-of-way, section by section, into a cross-state hiking and biking trail. The section of trail completed in 2022 includes the 1909 Columbia River railroad bridge in Beverly. With newly installed decking and railing, walkers now have a safe river crossing with fabulous views! Coordinator: Mike Hahn.



East–West Bridge over the Columbia River at Beverly Washington

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE

Míceál Vaughan, Chair

Bri Bailey, Resident Services Director

Clint Turner, Security & Transportation Manager

David Miller, Wellness Director

Bus Schedule Notes: *The Mirabella Monthly* lists both the departure time from Mirabella and the estimated pickup time from the destination. A grocery visit is an hour to an hour-and-a-half, subject to the needs of the shoppers. Times listed for other activities depend on the activity. For all trips, please be in the lobby fifteen minutes before departure to allow the bus to load and leave on time. You must be on board the bus at the announced time of departure.

OUT & ABOUT

To Make or Cancel a Reservation: Call x 1419 to



leave a message for bus reservations or submit a request on the Transportation Tab on MIRANET at least forty-eight hours before the trip

unless otherwise stated in the writeup. Request a confirmation for your seat. The site also lists seats available for each trip, and the list is updated as needed. Non-grocery trips may be canceled if buses are not available or if fewer than four people sign up. If your plans change and you are unable to make the trip, please call x 1419 to cancel twenty-four hours ahead and allow someone who is waitlisted to use the space. You may also cancel your reservation by calling the Front Desk at x 1400 when last-minute cancellations are unavoidable.

Emergencies: If, on any Mirabella sponsored trip such as these, an individual experiences an emergency that requires attention (e.g., some injury or medical event, or any problem that prevents getting to the bus), the Mirabella Front Desk should be notified immediately at x 1400.

Grocery Trips



- Ballard Market/Safeway**, Fridays, April 12, 26;
10 am–12 pm
- Costco**, Wednesdays, April 3, 17; 9:45–11:30 am
- Fred Meyer/PCC/Trader Joe’s**, Fridays, April 5,
19; 10–11:45 am
- Metro Market/CVS**, Mondays, April 8, 22;
10–11:45 am
- QFC/University Village**, Mondays, April 1, 15, 29;
10 am–12 pm

Walks



“Follow the Leader,” Saturday Walk at Gasworks Park – photo, A. Mathis

- Saturdays, 9:30–11:30 am pickup*
- April 6 Magnolia Boulevard
- April 13 Seward Park
- April 20 Arboretum
- April 27 Edmonds Waterfront
- Coordinator: Ardelle Knudsen, x 1811.

Sunday Church

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28; 9:15–10:30 am
The bus goes to Christ Our Hope. Other church trips are by reservation only.

Cultural Events

- Emerald City Music**, *An Evening with Violinist Jinjoo Cho*: Friday, April 19; 7:30 pm–Will Call
- Pacific Northwest Ballet**, *The Seasons’ Canon*: Saturday, April 13; 1:15–3:45 pm
- Met Live in HD**, *La Rondine*: Saturday, April 20; 9:15 am–12:50 pm
- Seattle Shakespeare Company**, *Romeo and Juliet*: Sunday, April 28; 1–4:15 pm
- Seattle Symphony 8G**, Mahler, *Symphony No. 3*: Sunday, April 14; 1:15–4:15 pm; *Antarctic Symphony*: Sunday, April 28; 1–4:15 pm
- Seattle Symphony 21A**, Copland, *Appalachian Spring*: Thursday, April 4; 6:45–9:45 pm; Mahler *Symphony No. 3*: Thursday, April 11; 6:45–9:45 pm; Dvorak, *Symphony No. 6*: Thursday, April 18; 6:45–9:45 pm; *Antarctic Symphony*: Thursday, April 25; 6:45–9:45 pm

BREAKFAST ◇ LUNCH ◇ TOURS

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Golf

Thursdays, 9 am–1 pm

April 4 West Seattle

April 11 Lynnwood

April 18 Nile

April 25 Foster

Coordinator: Dean Temple, x 1820.

Special Activities and Excursions

Pancake Breakfast: Swedish Club

Sunday, April 7; leaving at 10:45 am and returning at 12:30 pm

The monthly pancake breakfast at the Swedish Club has been a long-time Seattle favorite. Join us for a feast of pancakes covered with lingonberries or strawberries and whipped cream, with a side of ham. The cost (payable at the door) is \$13 for nonmembers and \$11 for members, plus sales tax. Coordinator: Judith Peterick, x 1683.

SIFF Surprise Movie

Sunday, April 14; leaving 3:45 pm and returning at 6:30 pm

SIFF's movie schedule is revealed about a week in advance at the Uptown Theatre. Residents who sign up for the small bus (by calling x 1419 or filling out the form on the MIRANET Transportation tab) will be notified as soon as the name of the movies are known. At that point we will also know the starting and ending times of the movies. Residents are responsible for purchasing their own theatre tickets. We've had a good time at prior SIFF movies and filled the small bus. Take a chance that you will enjoy a movie (and popcorn) on an early spring afternoon. Coordinator: Nickie Askov, x 1858.

Luncheonaires: Café Flora

Wednesday, April 10; 11:30 am–1 pm

A Seattle institution for more than three decades, Café Flora welcomes diners to enjoy delightful and satisfying vegetarian cuisine in an airy light-filled

atrium, outdoor patio, or cozy dining room. Its menu of excellent and varied breakfast/lunch offerings favors local, fresh produce presented with style and panache. (Carrot Harissa Strata or Asparagus, Leek & Nettle Pesto Scramble, anyone?). Coordinator: Jean Hall, x 1579.

SAM: Jaune Quick-To-See Smith: *Memory Map* *Friday, April 12; 1–3:30 pm*

This impressive retrospective of more than a half-century of art (in varied media) by the eighty-four-year-old indigenous American artist comes to SAM from the Whitney Museum. A citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith draws on abstraction, expressionism, and pop art to creatively reimagine her own cultural traditions and critically examine contemporary life in America with satire and humor. Two of her paintings were on display in Mirabella's wide-ranging Indigenous Art show on the first floor. Rebecca Albiani's talk in March provided residents a further introduction to her work and its broader context. (See Sylvia Fisher's article in the *March Monthly*.) Our private tour of the exhibition will also be led by Sylvia.

Míceál Vaughan will obtain tickets in advance for those registered before April 10. SAM members should provide Míceál with their membership numbers in advance; non-members should provide him with their names and \$6.25 (per person) in cash so that he may purchase advance tickets from SAM. Reserve your spot on the bus by calling x 1419 or by using the Transportation Tab on MIRANET. Coordinator: Míceál Vaughan, micealv@hotmail.com; (206) 326-8658.

University of Washington Crew House Tour

Saturday, April 20; 2:30–4:15 pm

Come tour the historic Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) Shell House—the WWI Navy hangar that became the home to

LOOK AT BOOKS ◇ LISTEN TO MUSIC

Washington Rowing and the 1936 Gold Medal Crew made famous in *The Boys in the Boat*. The tour will last about an hour and will focus on the many layers of indigenous, rowing, recreation, and sailing history that happened on that site. Our visit will also include a tour of the upstairs workshop of renowned English boat builder, George Pocock.

This is one of the last opportunities to see the building before it goes under wraps. Soon, the Seattle landmark will begin an extensive restoration and won't be back online for tours, events, and gatherings until summer 2026.

Dress warmly. The Shell House is not heated and can be quite cold. You can find out more details at <https://www.washington.edu/ima/waterfront/asuw-shell-house/>. Coordinator: Gloria Hennings, x 1793.

Tours of Seattle's Central Library and Its Special Collections

Wednesday, April 24; 10:30 am–1:30 pm

Prize-winning Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas designed Seattle's distinctive new Central Library which opened to the public in May 2004. We'll begin with an hour's tour of the twenty-year-old building, viewing its many distinctive facilities, services, art works, and (yes) book collections. We'll end that tour on the building's top floor and transition to a more in-depth look at the rich variety of special collections (physical and digital) housed by the Central Library. To get a preview of holdings in the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Seattle Room, you can access them online at www.seattleroomcollections. Coordinator: Míceál Vaughan, micealv@hotmail.com; (206) 326-8658.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Sally Hayman and Kitty Dow, Cochairs

Ilana Zaks, Violin Recital

Thursday, April 4; 3:30 pm, Emerald Hall

Ilana Zaks is a young, gifted violinist from Boston.

She studied violin from an early age with the Perlman Music Program. She is a recent graduate of Yale School of Music with a Master of Musical Arts degree (2022). She was also winner of the Broades Earl Prize for outstanding violinist. She has performed with orchestras in the eastern United States and since moving west, she has been appointed a section violinist in the Seattle Symphony.



Ilana Zaks, Violinist

Zaks will play this recital unaccompanied and has chosen music from the composers Bach, Paganini, Ysaÿe, and Scott Wheeler. Come and hear an exciting solo violin performance. Coordinator: Rosa Lea Taylor.

Piano Four Hands with Byron Schenkman and Joseph Williams

Thursday, April 11; 3:30 pm, Emerald Hall



Byron Schenkman



Joseph Williams

Virtuoso pianist Byron Schenkman, along with his pianist colleague Joseph Williams, will perform a program for piano four hands, featuring Mozart's

JAZZ ICON ◇ POEMS ALOUD

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Sonata in F Major, K. 497. Also included in the program are shorter works by Maria Szymanowska and Joseph Bologne (also known as “Le Chevalier de Saint Georges”). Many Mirabella residents will remember previous outstanding programs by Schenkman and Friends, and this is a wonderful opportunity to hear him perform some fascinating pieces with a new colleague, Joseph Williams.

Maria Szymanowska was a Polish composer and one of the first professional virtuoso pianists of the nineteenth century. Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint Georges, was a prolific composer of symphonies, concertos, quartets, sonatas, and operas.

Be sure not to miss this program of exciting concert pieces for piano four hands. The artists have kindly agreed to stay after the concert for a brief Q & A session. Coordinator: Donna McCampbell.

Sunday Jazz

Sunday, April 14; 2 pm, Emerald Hall



Tony Bennett

Continuing the series of artists of the past, we will enjoy the DVD *Tony Bennett, Duets II*. Tony Bennett made this DVD at age eighty-five, singing with several other great artists such as Andrea Bocelli, Lady Gaga,

Willie Nelson, and Natalie Cole. This production provides a visually stunning video collection of the full-song performances as they were recorded live in the studio. Coordinator: Stafford Miller.

Mirabella Poetry Fest 2024

Thursday, April 18; 3:30 pm, Emerald Hall

The 2024 National Poetry Month has arrived, and it’s time to save the date of April 18 to celebrate the gift of poetry! Come to Emerald Hall ready to hear your poetry-loving friends and neighbors share what

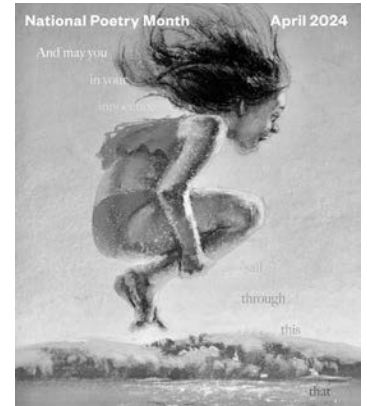
they love—a bit of this and a bit of that out of a mixed bag of favorites old and new, even some penned by themselves!

What is poetry, anyway? William Wordsworth says it’s “the spontaneous overflow of feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility.” Salvatore Quasimodo (1959 Nobel prize winner for Literature) says it’s “the revelation of a feeling that the poet believes to be interior and personal which the reader recognizes as his own.”

Poetry is oddly formatted, typically without sentences or paragraphs, yet it expresses such deep feelings, ideas, and images. Sometimes the message is perplexing, sometimes challenging and inspiring, often edgy, corny, or hilarious. But the impact of poetry is surprising, in the way rhymes and verses lay the foundation for speech and literacy in children or in the way a simple phrase can make a grownup weep.

Poetry lovers cherish alone time with poems they love, a bit like sitting quietly with an old friend, but sharing poetry with friends is a generous act that redounds, rippling through minds and hearts. Whether the poems we share trigger tears or laughter, confuse or amuse us, it’s a special day when we get to hear our friends share the ones that speak to them.

See you there. Do bring a hankie, just in case. Coordinator: AnnBritt Mathis, x 1711.



National Poetry Month Poster: “and may you in your innocence / sail through this to that,” the final lines from Lucille Clifton’s poem, “blessing the boats” (2000)

SINGING, PLAYING, & PARADING

Ladies Musical Club Concert Scandinavian Songs and Works for Oboe and Piano

Saturday, April 20; 2 pm, Emerald Hall



Tiina Ritalahti



Joan Lundquist



Asta Vaicekonis



Gail Perstein

We welcome back soprano Tiina Ritalahti who will be performing songs from her native Finland in the first part of the program. The Scandinavian theme continues when we are introduced to Nymphs and Fairies with songs by Kuula, Sibelius, and Merikanto. Her accompanist will be Joan Lundquist. In the second part of the program, Gail Perstein, oboe, and Asta Vaicekonis, piano, will perform the *Concerto for Oboe, Op 7* by Marie Félice Clémence de Reiset, Vicomtesse de Grandval. They will also perform a French Suite for oboe and piano by Alan Richardson.

I'm sure you will enjoy getting acquainted with some beautiful music that is probably new to you. Coordinator: Carolyn Burton.

Opening Day of Boating Season Parade

Thursday, April 25; 3:30–4:30 pm, Emerald Hall

In what is described as one of the premier rowing venues in the world, the University of Washington crew, with other United States and international teams, kick off the annual Opening Day of Boating Season Parade—the largest and oldest marine pleasure boat parade in the world!

Parade history dates from the 1920s, with the crew races added in 1986. The north and south shores of the Montlake Cut along the University of Washington campus, across and east of the Cut



Left to right: Christian Lockwood, Vice Admiral; Alesha Shemwell, Admiralette; and David Sanford, Admiral, standing on the good ship “Lady Washington,” a twentieth century replica of the eighteenth century warship and merchant ship of the same name – photo by Bob Rose, Brant Photographers. “Lady Washington” is the name given to a war sloop that harassed British shipping during the American Revolutionary War. Pictured here is an updated modern replica, created in 1989 for the Washington State Centennial celebrations. Operating out of Gray’s Harbor, she serves in the education of “students in the history of merchant trading, life of common sailors, and responsibilities of the ship’s officers.” – Source, Wikipedia.]

BOOKS ♦ POLS ♦ PIRATES

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are lined with viewers picnicking, partying, and enjoying the rowing and the parade.

Log booms are placed on both north and south sides of the Montlake Cut out to Lake Washington. There, spectator boats tie up, stern toward the parade, so close together that one could walk the length of the log boom on boat to boat.

Seattle Fire Department boats open and close the parade in a cloud of spray. Between the fireboats are boats from local and Canadian yacht clubs, commercial boats, and other recreational vessels. Boaters decorate their vessels to compete in illustrating special parade themes. Always the first Saturday in May, this unique event is sponsored and funded by Seattle Yacht Club (SYC) and is free and open to all.

Come to Emerald Hall to hear all the details of this spectacular event from the Seattle Yacht Club parade officials David Sanford, Admiral; Alesha Shemwell, Admiralette; and Christian Lockwood, Vice Admiral. You just may be inspired to go to the parade! Coordinator: Diane Holmes.

BOOK CLUB

*Fourth Monday of each month; 3:30 pm,
Conference Room A*

April 22 – Amor Towles’s novel, *The Lincoln Highway*, is our April selection. It relates the escapades of four boys in the 1950s as they travel from Nebraska to New York.

May 27 – We will be discussing *American Radical* by Tamer Elnoury. This is a memoir relating the author’s experience as a Muslim FBI agent infiltrating and bringing down a terrorist cell in North America.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Coordinator: Tina Moss.

MIRABELLA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Spokesperson, Matt Jamin

Council Members Barón and Kettle to Speak at Mirabella Forum

*Saturday, April 20; 1 pm, West/Northwest Dining
Room*



Jorge Barón



Bob Kettle

King County Council member Jorge Barón and Seattle City Council member Bob Kettle have been invited to participate in our next forum. Now that they are elected, they will speak to us on their goals and share their thoughts on how the two governmental entities can cooperate to fulfil their missions.

The two councilmembers have been asked to address the crises in homelessness, mental health, and public safety as well as economic development in our community. If any resident has additional issues that they would like addressed, please contact Matt Jamin, jaminm@uw.edu.

OPERA CLUB NEWS

The Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert and Sullivan

Monday, April 8; 2 pm, Emerald Hall

In the enduring 150-year legacy of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, *The Pirates of Penzance* is the most beloved of them all. With its zany characters

PIRATICAL PERFORMERS ◇ PASSOVER ◇ POTTERY



Poster for “Pirates of Penzance”

and crazy plot twists, the operetta is both a send-up of traditional opera and a satire on Victorian society. Frederic, an apprentice to the Pirate King, finds his fierce sense of duty tested by his love for Mabel and his doubts about being a pirate. But are the pirates really pirates? Will

Mabel and her sisters have to marry them? Is Major-General Stanley really an orphan? Can Frederic and Mabel find everlasting love? There’s *a lot* at stake.

Our showing of this tune-filled extravaganza is a 1983 film version of the Broadway musical, starring Kevin Kline as Frederic and Linda Ronstadt as Mabel. The brilliant cast includes Angela Lansbury, Rex Smith, and George Rose. Comedy, dancing, and those clever Gilbert and Sullivan songs carry us along the coast of Cornwall in search of treasure, romance, and rollicking pirate fun.

The Pirates of Penzance premiered in New York City on December 31, 1879, to a wildly receptive and appreciative audience. Two days later, Arthur Sullivan wrote to his mother: “The libretto is ingenious, clever, wonderfully funny in parts, and sometimes brilliant in dialogue.... The music is infinitely superior in every way to *Pinafore*—‘tunier’ and of a higher class altogether.” Modest? No, but after a century and a half, audiences all over the world still agree with him.

Jean Hall and Andrea Lewis

PASSOVER 2024

By Linda Berkman

“Remember this day, in which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage....”

Passover starts on Monday evening, April 22, and will last for seven days. It is when Jews all over the world are commanded (asked) to re-tell the story of the Exodus and eat unleavened bread, Matzo, for the week.

In the telling, we remember the old story of the hasty liberation of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, a great struggle for freedom and dignity. We remember because the struggle for human freedom never stops. We are asked to remember all people, Jews and non-Jews, who are still struggling for their freedom.

In observance of Passover, our Dining Services team and Chef Sean have promised a Passover-themed dinner in both Aria and Adagio on Wednesday, April 24.

As always, reservations are required to dine in Aria. We also look forward to Matzo being offered along with the regular rolls the entire week.

This annual rite of spring is a reminder to us all to hope for peace and freedom around the world.



Cover of a Haggadah read at Seder, colored in by a child – photo, L. Berkman

RE-STORE DONATIONS GUIDE

BY MARGARET HERB



Holstein-patterned plate and two coffee mugs – photo, M. Herb

Many of you may be surprised by the volume, variety, and condition of items that come into Re-Store. We appreciate your thinking of us when it is time to move things on, giving us a chance

DONATE STUFF ◇ DONATE TIME

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to sell what you bring to the Re-Store to benefit the Mirabella Seattle Foundation. We also enjoy having someone tell us we saved them a trip to the store, or that vase, pan, kitchen gadget, blouse, or chest of drawers was just what was needed.

But often, we get things that we don't know how to work or what its original purpose was. Sometimes, all the pieces are not included. Other times it is useful to know the original cost of an item so it can be priced accordingly. And sometimes things are donated for which there is no market.

We believe the solution to this problem is for each of you, when bringing us your donation, to put your name, apartment number, and phone number on the box or bag. That way we will know whom to contact with our questions.

Just a reminder about what Re-Store accepts:

- » Clothing—clean, no holes, and not dated. (All cashmere sweaters are accepted.)
- » Pots and pans—no dents or rust; clean, no baked-on food or grease.
- » Dishes—no chips.
- » Kitchen gadgets.
- » Jewelry—all types, even broken.
- » Furniture—must be seen by Re-Store volunteer before accepted.
- » Christmas decorations—all types.
- » Office supplies.
- » Knick knacks—no chips or breaks.
- » Books—current novels. (Contact Marilyn Campbell, x 1587, about other books.)
- » Electronics—on a case-by-case basis. (This includes televisions.)
- » Food products—cannot be past pull date.
- » Incontinence supplies—unopened packages.

Re-Store cannot accept:

- » Printers.
- » Underwear or swimsuits unless new and in the package.

» Any items with missing or broken parts. Accepted donations are sorted carefully, and our customers expect a high quality of items in Re-Store. One thing to ask yourself before bringing a donation is: “Would I buy this item for myself?” If not, Re-Store cannot sell it. Other options are to put it in Thread Cycle, donate to Goodwill if you still think it is saleable, or throw it away. For larger items needing disposal, contact Mirabella Facilities Services.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH FRED HUTCH

By Jared Curtis

Have you been impressed with the extraordinary clinical and research work done at Fred Hutch? We have had many COVID-19 updates from Dr. Amitabha “Guppy” Gupta, the Scientific Content Strategist for the Philanthropy Department at the Hutch in the last four years. Invited speakers from other departments have also



Lydia and Elizabeth, volunteers at the Hutch Gift Shop – photo courtesy of Hutch Volunteer Services

appeared at the podium in Emerald Hall. Here is your chance to become a small part of this large and important local organization dedicated to improving health treatments and care for those suffering from many common and uncommon diseases.

Fred Hutch Cancer Center is seeking dedicated and compassionate volunteers to provide practical support for people undergoing cancer treatment and their families. Volunteers are an essential part of the team that operates through the Gift Shop and Shine

SUPPORTING YOUTHCARE FIGHTING SILENCE

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retail store. Shine is located at 207 Pontius Avenue North, Seattle, just a block away from Mirabella. The Gift Shop is located on the first floor of the Fred Hutch Clinic at 1354 Aloha Street, a half-mile walk, but also reachable via Metro bus no. 70 and the bus service operated by the Hutch between Shine and the Fred Hutch Clinic.

Megan Weinman, Volunteer Coordinator at Hutch Volunteer Services, tells me that volunteers at both positions are asked to provide “customer service for patients, families, and staff who enter the shops, process sales transactions, and assist with purchases as needed.” In my experience visiting both shops, volunteers greet patients and visitors with warmth and understanding, the standard expected and delivered by these dedicated folk. Megan says that “the Gift Shop and Shine provide a soft place to land on a tough day, a welcomed distraction to a patient’s treatment, and an exciting opportunity to find something new to bring home.”

The details: A weekly Monday–Friday four-hour shift (days and times may vary). To apply please visit <http://fredhutch.org/patient-volunteer>. If you have any questions, please call (206) 606-1072 or email clinicvolunteer@fredhutch.org.

YOUTHCARE LUNCHEON

BY MARY JO TAYLOR



Annual YouthCare Luncheon, left to right, Jim Doyle, Mary Ann Knowles, Carolyn Burton, Mike and Judy Waring

The thirty-eighth Annual YouthCare Luncheon, celebrating the organization’s fiftieth anniversary, was held in the commodious ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel on Wednesday, March 13. The large group of Mirabella residents enjoyed a delicious lunch. Their donations, including those from others at Mirabella who couldn’t attend, amounted to \$26,800. All donations of any amount for the luncheon were matched by area businesses.

The highlight of the event was a moving presentation by a former client, Mark, a once homeless youth who found aid at “the green building” in our neighborhood on the corner of Denny and Stewart (Orion Center). The YouthCare counselors never gave up on Mark. With their help and encouragement, he eventually earned his GED, enrolled in junior college, and ultimately completed his education with a PhD in mathematics from the University of Washington.

In addition to providing financial support for YouthCare, Mirabella residents also volunteer at Orion Center once a month to prepare lunch for homeless youth. Contact Charlotte Lindsey or Nickie Askov if you would like to learn more about YouthCare and how you can support their mission of ending youth homelessness and ensuring that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential.

SUDDEN HEARING LOSS

BY RICH BEBEE

Fifty some years ago I was in my fourth year of university teaching when I was the victim of an attempted robbery and received a .32 caliber gunshot in my head at the right ear. The next day, the doctor explained to me how fortunate I was to be alive. The bullet severed the



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seventh nerve exactly at the brain but did not enter the brain. Although I had survived, my ability to hear through that ear was forever gone.

The university generously gave me the year off, but after much effort I got back on the job in about four months. With one functioning ear, I was able to hear many things. As I was no longer able to determine sound direction, I quickly learned to look for a moving mouth to see who might be talking. For a while, I wore a big, old, ugly, hearing aid in my right ear, hoping people would see it and try to communicate better with me. With nothing functioning in the right ear, I also lost my balance and had to be careful getting up from a chair after sitting for any length of time. To make matters worse, I developed tinnitus.

Teaching myself and learning from others the skills that would help me communicate more effectively, I kept moving forward. A little over two years after the incident, I took an unpaid leave of absence from the university to work with the American accounting firm Arthur Andersen as a CPA in their D.C. office, helping monitor the 1976 Tax Reform Act. I relocated there and attended all the tax committee meetings on the hill in D.C. when the act and was being debated. I then wrote the firm's booklets on the new law. As I became an expert on it, I was invited to give speeches across the country to help others learn its new rules. After a three-year stint in industry in Chicago, I returned to academia as department chair and served twice as dean for over twenty years. With only my one functioning ear, I was able to interact with people. My career and life moved on.

Most people didn't know I was partially deaf. I always let my boss and associates know, and a trusted colleague or staff member would always sit on my right at functions to help me communicate and make sure I could follow the conversation.

With their help, I was able to respond to the person speaking. Life was good.

In May 2020, almost five decades later, I awoke one morning and couldn't hear the toilet flush, couldn't hear water in the sink. I had developed what is called sudden hearing loss (SHL), a phenomenon that literally happens overnight with no warning. SHL, typically impacts people who have experienced head trauma and is not uncommon. Now I was without hearing in what once was my only functioning ear.

Having retired before this difficult period, I was not in the workplace trying to be productive. But with near-total deafness, one inhabits a very different world. I went through a six-week series of injections in my left eardrum to try to regenerate some hearing. When these failed, I sought therapy to help me deal with my situation. Not only was it hard for me to cope, but it was also a challenge for my family and friends. Many who weren't prepared for this new and more personal situation seemed to experience more pain and suffering than I. Yet they were kind, understanding, and—most important—*patient*. One frustration remains, namely tinnitus, of which I now have four different kinds.

Folks at Mirabella have been helpful and supportive, especially the duplicate bridge group, and for that I thank you. Before my cochlear implant last April, I was always carrying some gadget, trying to capture and caption words whenever I could. The cochlear implant has helped enormously, but the journey continues, as I try to understand as much as I can of what's being said.

We all move forward!

ARTS NOTEBOOK

By Jared Curtis

A new Storefront Exhibit has been mounted in South Lake Union by Shunpike, the Seattle

WINDOW WATCHING ◇ MUSICAL MEMORY

arts organization. As explained on its website, “Shunpike’s Storefronts Program is a public art exhibition and pop-up program that came about in the wake of the 2008 economic downturn. Since then, Storefronts South Lake Union has evolved into an ongoing temporary public art partnership with Amazon, hosting sixteen artists’ works a year.” You can join a Storefronts Art Walk of these displays led by Storefronts Program Manager Hanako O’Leary on Thursday, April 18, from 6–8 pm. In the past this tour group has gathered at the corner of John Street and Boren Avenue North. The tour begins promptly at 6 pm.

The current exhibit includes the work of eight women, all Pacific Northwest artists: Julie Alpert, Vivian Li, Fiona Tang, Dionne Bonner, Courtney Martin, Emily Bromberg, Lily Gray, and Kyung Hee Im. They work in various media including sculpture, fabric, and painting. Their installations run between now and August 4, 2024.

Two that appealed to me were Vivian Li’s *Gou Guo* at Mercer Street and Terry Avenue North and Dionne Bonner’s *Hilltop Stories, Visual Reflections* at Harrison Street and Boren Avenue North.



“*Gou Guo*,” Vivian Li – photo, J. Curtis

Li, a Seattle illustrator, comics artist, and web based designer, introduces her work in this way: “Puns are a huge part of Chinese culture since many words sound similar and sometimes can only be differentiated by their tone or context. The word for dog is 狗 (gǒu) and the word for fruit is 果 (guǒ). *Gou Guo* is a celebration of this fortunate coincidence!” I liked her notion of visualizing her spoken language through sprightly and comical

images of fruit with legs and tails.

In contrast, Tacoma artist Bonner presents *Hilltop Stories*, a series of paintings that visualizes her “reflections,” her memories of the historically Black Hilltop neighborhood in Tacoma where she lived as a child, a neighborhood that has since been “redlined and disinvested.” These



“*Woman at Street Corner*,” Dionne Bonner – photo, J. Curtis

are large portraits, in vibrant colors, reflecting the influence of artist Jacob Lawrence. They depict adults and children as they go about their daily lives, walking the neighborhood streets, singing in church, playing keyboard music—all figures actively engaged.

TRY TO REMEMBER

BY NICKIE ASKOV

We were in Barbara Porter’s ukulele class when she introduced us to a rather difficult new song from *The Fantasticks* called “Try to Remember.” As we struggled with learning new notes, I felt memories wash over me. That song immediately took me back to the summer following my junior year in college. It was early June when my parents accompanied me to New York City to board an off-season Israeli cruiser that would take our Classrooms Abroad group to France for six weeks of language study. My parents decided that it would be fun to go to New York City a few days early to see a Broadway show, visit museums, and tour the city. Growing up in St. Louis, I didn’t get many opportunities like that, so I was excited not only about the summer abroad

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program but also the few days in New York City. My father asked me to select the one Broadway show that we would see. I asked my college friends, some of whom were more sophisticated than I, what we should see. One friend from New York City enthusiastically told me that we should go see *The Fantasticks*. I assumed that it was a Broadway show as did my parents. But when my father ordered tickets, he discovered that the show was off-Broadway. He was not happy because as a rural farm boy from Northwest Missouri he had had little opportunity to see anything except movies and certainly not professional theatre. He tried to convince me that I really wanted to see a Broadway show, but I insisted that my college friend had recommended *The Fantasticks* as the best show. The visit to the city went as promised with many exciting activities. Finally, the evening came to go to the theatre. When the taxi delivered us to a run-down, small theatre in a not-so-great neighborhood, my father really began to pout. To make the situation worse, a torrent of rain opened up so that we were drenched before we even entered the theatre. I began to wonder if we would be able to hear the show with the pelting rain on what appeared to be a tin roof. Inside the small, dark theatre we discovered that we were to sit on folding chairs in a theatre almost in the round. My father began to mutter that this was ridiculous—that we could have gone to a Broadway show with comfortable seats! I was beginning to feel apprehensive, wondering if maybe my friend had been overly enthusiastic about a show that wasn't going to be very good. My mother, ever the diplomat, never said a word.

As the show started the magic began to happen. My parents were both amused by “Plant a radish, get a radish, not a Brussels sprout.” I was feeling more confident that we had made the right choice. By the

time the song “Try to Remember” came along, I was in tears. I took a quick glance at my parents and saw that my father was also fighting off the tears. My mother, as always, was stoical but looking moved. At the end of the show, I was overcome with emotion, and my father, without saying anything else, mumbled, “I’ll go buy their record.” Then I knew my friend had made the perfect recommendation.



Original cast of “The Fantasticks,” (1960), the longest running Broadway musical in history

Now, some sixty years later, I reflect on the words of the song, especially the last verse:

Deep in December it’s nice to remember,
 Although you know the snow will follow,
 Deep in December, it’s nice to remember,
 Without a hurt the heart is hollow.
 Deep in December, it’s nice to remember,
 The fire of September that made us mellow.
 Deep in December, our hearts should remember
 And follow.

As we play the song in class on our ukuleles, tears still come to my eyes as I remember that special night in New York City in a run-down theatre. Now I am living “Deep in December” reflecting on my memories of the years of being a daughter, mother, grandmother, and now great-grandmother. My life is so rich now because I have not only my current self but also the many memories that made me the way I am now.

BIRTHDAYS ◇ **POETRY CORNER** ◇ **REMEMBERING**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! APRIL 2024

- 1 - Pat Chinn
- 3 - Carolyn Roe
- 3 - Pat Nishida
- 4 - Sally Hayman
- 5 - Jean Higgins
- 6 - Evalie Berst

- 6 - Carolyn Burton
- 11 - Gennie Thompson
- 14 - Peggy Wells
- 18 - Dieter Heycke
- 24 - Pat Gaillard
- 24 - Sally Hahn

- 24 - Paul Keown
- 24 - Bill Poole
- 25 - Carolyn Ferrell
- 28 - Alvin Kwiram
- 28 - Art Price

**ADIOS VIEJO
GRINGO**

BY JIM LUTZ

An old gringo was
returning home
To El Norte, the land of
his birth.
The sun in the west was
slowly setting
Over purple sierra,
As he wondered,
Flying through the sky,
Where home really was.

Age lends perspective,
Like the view from the
clouds.
Is home a place on
earth,
Or a place in time?
Was the old gringo sure
Where home really
was?

Far away and long ago
In the nearby land of
ghosts,
He can still see children
he knew as a boy,

And taste the aroma
Of food in his mother's
kitchen.

The people in that
world seem
Both real and unreal,
Reminding him from
graveyards
He no longer visits,
Where home once was.

The captain tells him
To buckle up
As they approach his
destination,
A place he recently
called home,
Now starting to morph
into a memory
That will fade like the
shadows
Of tombs at twilight.

As he lands, the
landscape is both
Familiar and strange,
undecided
Whether to belong to
the present

Or the past.

The old gringo has come
to say goodbye
To a place, a people, and
a time
Reluctant to see him
leave.

He tells himself it is
time
For a new chapter,
But old pages refuse
To be torn from his book,
Even as they dim and
grow softer,
Like promises to stay in
touch.

His other present and
the future
Wait south of the border,
But he clings to the
goodbyes
Until the reality of
departure arrives.
And the slippery present
escapes his grasp.

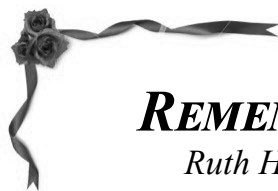
Returning to sky and
cloud,
He flies on board the
future,
Where cabin lights flash
That tears and smiles
Are now allowed.

REMEMBERING

Ruth Hase 3/3/2024

Jan Hollister 3/18/2024

Rosemary Cahill 3/18/2024



MAJOR MOVIES

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MOVIE CORNER

BY WARREN ASKOV

April starts with *The Holdovers*. Paul Hunham (Paul Giamatti) is a bitter, cranky classics professor at an all-male boarding school that he once attended on scholarship. He is tasked with overseeing five students who have no place to go for holiday break. Also staying for break is the cafeteria manager, Mary Lamb (Da’Vine Joy Randolph), whose late son Curtis attended Barton and, after being drafted, was killed in the Vietnam War. As the film progresses, we begin to understand Mary’s quiet pain, and we discover the source of Hunham’s bitterness. At this year’s Academy Awards, the film garnered five nominations, including Best Picture, and Randolph won an Oscar as Best Supporting Actress.

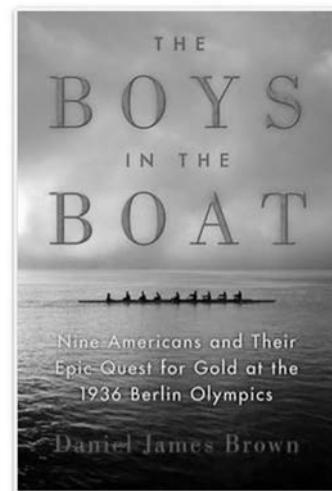


Joan Baez in “I Am a Noise”

Next up *Joan Baez I Am a Noise*. Joan Baez has had a long career from the 1960s to the present as a singer, songwriter, and activist. The film presents previously unreleased home movies, artwork, diaries, therapy tapes, and audio recordings related to Baez. The critics’ consensus (*Rotten Tomatoes*) reads: “Absorbing purely as a chronicle of her remarkable career, *Joan Baez I Am a Noise* is also moving as a depiction of one woman’s personal journey from pain to peace and forgiveness.” And

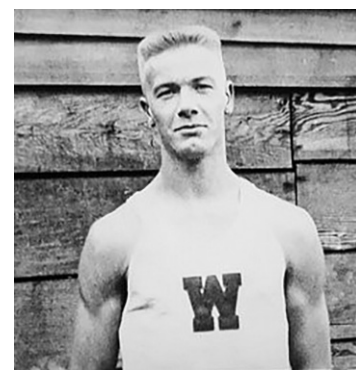
then there’s that bell-like voice we hear from her multiple performances.

The Boys in the Boat premiered in Seattle last December with high local interest. It is based on the best seller of the same title by the local writer Daniel James Brown. It tells the story of the 1936 University of Washington rowing team made up of mostly poor, working-class students with no rowing experience. Joe Rantz, one of the students, was living on his own in his car. He and his crew mates were attracted by the lure of jobs to help pay rent and tuition.



Movie Poster for “Boys in the Boat”

They came together to form a crew that eventually challenged rowing teams from other elite schools like Cal, Navy, and Penn to earn a chance to go to the 1936 Olympics, where Hitler and his staff were planning to showcase the German Reich and their athletic superiority. The film provides dramatic re-creations of the many close races the UW team won and lost on their way to Olympic trials. You won’t see the original race sites because Seattle has changed too much since the 1930s. Most of the story was filmed at other locations.



Joe Rantz, one of the original eight rowers – by Team USA Olympics, original publication: 1936



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If you want information added to MIRANET and the printed *Mirabella Weekly*, please email details to Tina Tran (ttran@retirement.org) no later than noon on Friday of the prior week. Room bookings must be made in writing on the proper form and turned in to the Front Desk.

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