



The Mirabella Monthly

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MARCH 2025

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RUTH BENFIELD ON RAPA NUI OR EASTER ISLAND

BY JARED CURTIS

On February 11, 2025, Ruth Benfield, an adventurous traveler, gave us a Resident Revelation to remember. She saved her best photograph, one of Easter Island, for the last slide of her lively and well-illustrated talk on her adventures in South America. She told us she rose in the dark to join their local guide to go to the place where she could see the moai as the sun rose in the east. These giant figures, carved of basalt and volcanic rock, stood together in a line on the edge of the island, with their backs to the sea and the rising sun. They faced inland to serve as protectors for the inhabitants of the island.

She first described her month-long trip that began in Miami on the last day of November 2024, and brought her to Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, where on a visit to a ranch, she learned how to throw a bolo, the only one of the group able to catch



Moais at sunrise – photo by R. Benfield

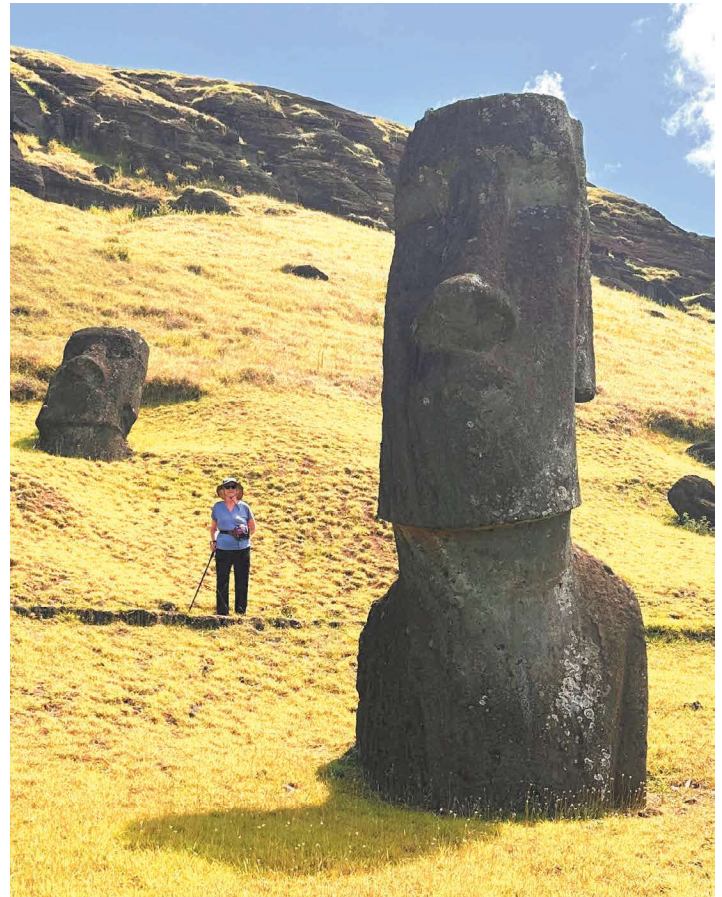
MOVING MOAI

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Standing Moai, showing petroglyphs that were carved in the soft volcanic rock long after the original figure was created – photo by R. Benfield



Ruth Benfield standing the requisite twenty feet from a standing moai – photo by her native guide

the quarry (a pole stuck in the ground). She said, “proud feminist that I am,” when all the men failed in the attempt, “I thought that at least one of the women should try it, so up I stepped.” She went on to say, somewhat gleefully, that each man tried a second time...and failed to hit the target. “When they urged me to try it again, I said, ‘No way!’” The tour continued to Patagonia, the southern glaciers, the floe-filled fjords of Chile, and then on to Santiago, Chile, the jumping off place to Easter Island. After this breathtaking race through her experiences in South America, Ruth then concentrated on “one special place,” the mid-Pacific Island of Rapa Nui.



A rare seated Moai – photo by R. Benfield

SHELF SPACE

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She told us of the island's history, that it was populated by Polynesians between 300 and 1200 CE, touched on aspects of its culture and people, bringing us through ensuing centuries to the present day when much of this beautiful tropical island became a UNESCO protected site. The island was formed by three volcanos, no longer active, whose crater lakes provide an ample source of fresh water from collected rainfall. The Rapa Nui, the original settlers and their descendants, believing their ancestors lived on as their protectors, carved figures out of rock in human shape with elongated faces rising from six to sixty-five feet in height and moved them to the periphery of the island as guardians worthy of their devotion and respect. Over the centuries, time and the seasons wore away these monuments. In addition, presumed warfare between tribes, tropical storms, and a documented tsunami toppled a good many of them. In modern times, as her photographs illustrated, many have been re-erected, though now that the island is largely a protected site, this effort is no longer permitted to preserve the integrity of these monuments of the past. Slavery, emigration, and European diseases decimated the population to around 100 Rapa Nui by the nineteenth century. For a time, Chile was sole governor of the island and permitted ranchers to graze sheep there. This incursion on the vegetation of a shallow-soiled volcanic island destroyed much of the native flora. The island now is governed by a combination of a governor appointed by Chile and a local mayor elected by the Rapa Nui. There are no more sheep. Today, the population has risen to about 8,000.

Ruth showed brief videos of local cultural events to which her group was invited that involved lively, even athletic, dancing and music. Aquatic sporting events of rowing and swimming attract many natives who are extremely accomplished

and believe that if their events were included in the Olympics, they would win them! Ruth said she watched some of these highly skilled boaters and is inclined to agree with this assessment. Through conversations with natives, Ruth learned that their hopes for the future are for true independence and for medical and educational facilities for the islanders. In the future these goals may be supportable through income from tourism to the park.

In the Q&A that followed, it was clear from the many questions and comments that Ruth Benfield's talk was a hit.

WHAT'S ON YOUR LEDGE TODAY?

BY BRAIDEN REX-JOHNSON

One of the things that most intrigued me even before we had officially moved into Mirabella was the decoration of the ledges.

After only a couple of visits, I realized these small quartz shelves at the entrance to each unit were vessels of self-expression for the residents within. I quickly decided that our ledge would be used to display one of my passions—fresh flower arrangements. Other residents like to showcase fresh blossoms, too. I love it when the sweet smell of roses or the exotic scent of Asiatic lilies wafts through the hallways.

Some Mirabellans keep up the floral theme, but with artificial flowers instead. Our next-door neighbors' sill features an exuberant fuchsia orchid that sparks joy every time I pass by. Another resident offers up a surprisingly realistic bowl of "flowers" sculpted from bars of soap.

Animals are popular. My husband is a long-time collector of ram statues. So, in front of his art studio,

HALLWAY TREASURES

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you'll find a stern adult ram and a fetching baby. He likes to say that the big ram is teaching the small one how to sit still.

Walking the floors at Mirabella, I've also discovered myriad pieces and styles of art: a dramatic red, white, and blue, hand-embroidered wall tapestry made by the resident within; a ceramic face with a spiky Christmas cactus for "hair"; Russian nesting dolls; and a bulbous ceramic frog.

American and LGBTQ flags and banners for local sports teams are other popular options. Some generous residents even offer up baskets filled with miniature candy bars ready for the taking!

But it's important to look not only *atop* the shelves but *underneath* them, since many residents make use of the valuable real estate there. Life-size dog and cat sculptures often lurk in these under-ledge lairs.

Our quartz squares are not only display cases, but places of exchange. Every morning, I open my Google Groups emails to see if there are any ledge offers. Residents have proffered ripe bananas and fresh fruit, boxes of Cheerios, unopened packages of Prilosec and aspirin, and extra copies of *The Seattle Times* and *The New York Times*.

People also ask for items to be left in front of their units, and these requests are often more serious, such as for diabetes medications. A computer charging cord was my very own first desperate plea when mine had gone missing during our move. Displays of natural beauty and art, offers of satsumas and cereal, and requests for insulin and cough syrup show what a creative, quirky, and compassionate community we belong to.

So, the \$64,000 question for March is: What's on your ledge today?



Originally hailing from Arlington, Virginia, the bulbous ceramic frog perched on Al and Linda Gutterman's ledge on the eleventh floor was part of a trio that included Hear No Evil, See No Evil, and Speak No Evil. Chosen because "he was the cutest,"

Speak No Evil used to welcome Linda's piano students in Arlington, but reportedly is enjoying his new perch at Mirabella. — photo by B. Rex-Johnson



Look closely at the flower arrangement in front of Alice Lobenstein's unit on the seventh floor and you might realize it is actually made of soap! A thoughtful gift from her niece, the bouquet can be taken apart and the individual petals used as scented soap for washing hands or sprinkling in a warm bath. — photo by B. Rex-Johnson

WHO DOES WHAT AT MIRABELLA

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RESIDENT COUNCIL, 2024–2025



Julia Wan, President,
2024–2025,
Box 1110, x 1852,
juliawan1@gmail.com



Míceál Vaughan, Vice
President, 2024–2025,
Box 434, (206) 326-8658
micealv@hotmail.com



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



John Wertz,
Treasurer, 2024–2026,
Box 531, x 1672,
jwertz61@hotmail.com



Nancy Eliason, Member-
at-Large, 2024–2026,
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



Sally Hahn, Member-
at-Large, 2024–2026,
Box 1120, x 1755,
skhahn424@gmail.com

COUNCIL & RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

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, 2024–2025

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

<i>Committee or Group</i>	<i>Chair/Cochairs</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
Active Arts	Sandra Jaech	Box 306, x 1588
Art	Linda Berkman Ginny Sharp	Box 513, x 1861 Box 912, x 1760
Dining	Gail Temple	Box 1002, x 1820
Emergency Preparedness	Matt Jamin	Box 1028, x 1635
Employee Appreciation	Bill Poole	Box 528, x 1669
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 Nan Morris	Box 408, x 1731 Box 819, x 1768
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	Mike Waring	Box 527, x 1585
Outside Activities	Sheila McConnell	Box 416, x 1621
Program	Sally Hayman Eddie Edmondson	Box 828, x 1640 Box 616, x 1826
Welcome	Sue Herring	Box 709, x 1556

CLINICS FOR ALL

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RESIDENT SERVICES

Bri Bailey, Resident Services Director

Community Happy Hour



*St. Paddy's Toast by
Kelly Froh*

*Tuesday, March 18;
3–4:30 pm, Northwest
Dining Room*
Join us for our March
Community Happy Hour
celebrating St. Patrick's
Day. Please come to enjoy
wine, beer, light hors
d'oeuvres, and mingling.
Sláinte!

Health Clinics Available to All



The following clinics are being held for Independent Living (IL) residents in seventh-floor Suite 726, accessible from the C 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.org.

Podiatrist

Thursday, March 27; 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, March 4; 9:30–11 am, Suite 726
Dr. Patricia Munson offers hearing assessments, usually the second Tuesday of every month, but one week early this month. For appointments, contact Patient Care Coordinator/Office Manager, Seattle

Hearing Services at (206) 937-8700 or at info@seattlehearingservices.com.

Foot Care Clinic

Call for appointment and rates

Bonnie Ackles, RN, CFCS, is a former Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner and 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 at (206) 940-0748.

Counseling Service

Wednesdays, weekly by appointment only

Resident Services offers two counselors to work with residents experiencing grief, loss, changes in health, anxiety, and depression. Jenna Rumberger, LICSW, is a licensed independent clinical social worker who has been working in the field for more than ten years. Visit <https://www.agingwithaplan.org> for more information. Ashica Demira, LICSW, is a clinical social worker in gerontology (CSW-G) who serves individuals, families, caregivers, and professionals to provide strength-based and culturally responsive care. Visit <https://www.essentiallicsw.com> for more information. Either counselor 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. For information and rates or to schedule an appointment, please contact Jenna at Jenna@agingwithaplan.org, (425) 270-7336, or Ashica at Ashica@essentiallicsw.com, (206) 445-3926.

Massage Appointments

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 am–5 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 10:30 am–4 pm; Suite 726
Susan Stein, LMT, is available for massage services. Call x 1421 to schedule an appointment.

PAPER ART

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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 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 it is not covered under the temporary free stay program and therefore is a private-pay cost.

Max Kuhlman, Health Services Administrator

ACTIVE ARTS COMMITTEE

Sandra Jaech, Chair

Drawing and Watercolor with Maja Serada

Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27; Drawing, 12–1:15 pm and Watercolor, 1:30–2:45 pm, Art Room 507

These are back-to-back classes. You may take one or both classes.

Drawing is scheduled first from 12–1:15 pm. The

supply cost for new students is \$25.

Watercolor will follow from 1:30–2:45 pm with a supply cost for new students of \$50.

Returning students need to bring the supplies issued in their prior class. If you are new to either class, please sign up in the red notebook in the Resident Business Office by March 2 to allow time for ordering supplies. Coordinator: Deb Boone.

Creative Writing with Janee Baugher

Friday, March 7; 11 am–12:30 pm, Conference Room A

Janee continues to offer her class with various exercises in helping develop your writing skills. No registration is needed.

Origami with Makiko Doi

Fridays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 and 11; 2–3 pm, Art Room 507



The late Charlotte Bushue, Makiko Doi, and Jane Beer in last year's class – photo by E. Hill

The art of paper-folding is a fun and mysterious way of turning interesting paper into various forms from simple to complex. Makiko will bring you through the steps to create houses, boats, and birds as well as other colorful small items. There is no charge for this class, but class size is limited, so sign up in the red notebook in the Resident Business Office. Coordinator: Sandra Jaech.

FABRIC ART

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Zentangle One-Time Special Session

Saturday, March 22; 1–3 pm, Art Room 507

Roland Ingham, our Zentangle instructor's son, returns with another free session. His class in December was fun and challenging. Roland is a high-school student and a Certified Zentangle Instructor who is volunteering his time to bring us another special project. Returning Zentanglers: bring your supplies. If you are new to Zentangling, you will be able to borrow supplies or have an option to purchase a beginning kit for \$25. Sign up in the red notebook in the Resident Business Office. Coordinator: Sandra Jaech.

Ukulele Class

Thursdays, March 13 and 27; 11 am, Conference Room A

Practice time March 6 and 20; 11 am, Conference Room A

The ukulele class will continue to offer two sessions this month to continue growing our repertoire and two sessions of practice time. Members include new players and those with two or more years of experience playing the ukulele. Practice time is voluntary and will allow interaction with the other players. This is an open class with no sign-up necessary.

ART COMMITTEE

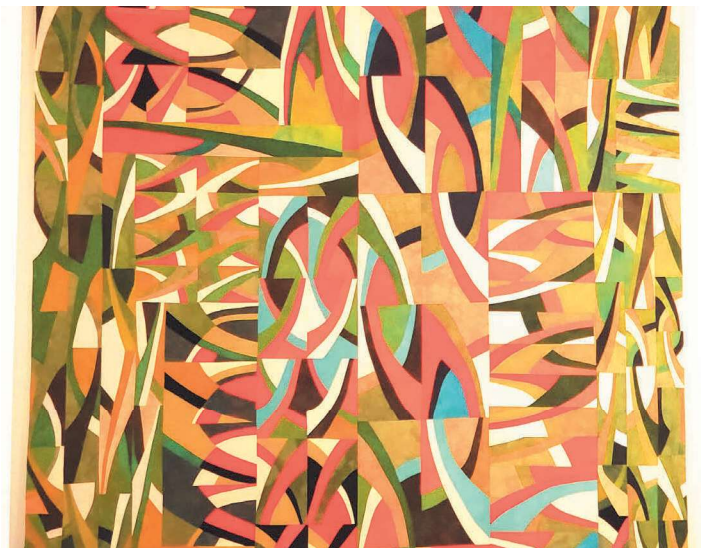
Linda Berkman and Ginny Sharp, Cochairs

Fiber Art Fest

March 17–May 27

Thanks to the great generosity of our residents who have loaned their fiber art, we will have a wonderful, varied display on the first floor, representing many countries and a variety of materials.

Humans have always decorated their surroundings, starting with cave drawings and murals, then progressing to wall-hangings, rugs, and decorated clothing. Examples of stitched clothing have been



Curvilinear Fifteen, art quilt by Ellin Larimer

found going back 27,000 years.

Around 114 BC the Han dynasty initiated the Silk Road trade route, bringing luxury textiles to Asia Minor and the Mediterranean, an expanse greater than 5,000 miles over land and sea. This was the foundation of the exchange of luxury textiles from East to West. Meanwhile, in the Indus Valley, fragments of cotton have been found from the fifth century and were described as “a wool exceeding in beauty and goodness that of sheep.” In fact, when Alexander the Great invaded India, his troops started wearing cotton clothes, which were much more comfortable than their woolen ones.

With the worldwide exchange of fabrics, yarns, threads, and crafting tools, the exploration of decorative art exploded in the fifteenth century. From Africa to Scandinavia, both men and women were stitching, knitting, weaving, dyeing, and embroidering exquisite tapestries, rugs, wall-hangings, clothes, quilts, and yes, even shoelaces. This trend has persisted to the present day, although, sadly, menswear has become somewhat more subdued compared to the extravagance of the Elizabethan era.

HONORING STAFF § KEEPING HOUSE

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Many pieces in our show have a deeper meaning, such as the colorful knotted cords used by the Incas to tell family histories and record accounts and legal matters. Another example is the story quilt. Cathy Short has loaned us a quilt which tells of her life in Alaska. We have examples of such pieces from every continent and many time periods, including the current explosion of textiles in contemporary art. You will see ikat from Indonesia, rugs from Peru, embroidery from China, kimonos from Japan, batik from Africa, and many other works. They range from Ellin Larimer's magnificent quilt to an intricate sampler worked by a seven-year-old girl in 1850. Curators: Carolyn Burton and Sandra Jaech.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Bill Poole, Chair



The first week of March is National Employee Appreciation Week, which gives us the opportunity to celebrate our employees long enough to hopefully reach all of them. We

will put posters in their lounges and wear badges that are supplied in our mailroom, expressing our love of their dedicated service and care. We will also have posters to remind our residents to wear a smile, give a hug, and share our appreciation for everything they do for us. This year, our residents are sending an animated digital thank-you note to every employee in their Mirabella email, via the Human Resources office.

If you would like to recognize a particular employee using your cell phone, go to the MIRANET app, Fillable Forms, and VIP to recommend an employee.

On your computer, go to the MIRANET website, click on Feedback, then VIP for your suggestions. Each month, Human Resources and department managers award the VIP honor to exceptional employees who exhibit one or more of Mirabella's core values of collaboration, compassion, excellence, innovation, integrity, and stewardship. VIP awardees receive a \$250 bonus funded by resident donations to the Mirabella Employee Appreciation Fund.

Let's all celebrate our amazing employees!

Maria Fiore

ENVIRONMENTAL AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Jerry Smedes and Nickie Askov, Cochairs

Summary of the February Meeting Minutes

The Environment and Facilities Committee had a productive and engaging meeting in February, covering a broad range of topics that directly impact the quality of life at Mirabella. From A/V upgrades to HVAC maintenance, elevator improvements, and Wi-Fi assessments, it is great to see proactive steps being taken to enhance the facilities. The focus on addressing resident concerns, such as exhaust fumes, temperature issues, and package deliveries, shows a strong commitment to responsiveness and continuous improvement.

Ky Moody's involvement as the new Executive Director, along with Facilities Director Steven Cone, seems to have brought fresh energy to ongoing projects. It is especially reassuring to hear about the thorough environmental assessments and planned improvements in emergency response systems.

The exhaust fumes mentioned need immediate attention, but a lot is in motion.

Jared Curtis

HEARING LOSS & BEARING LOSS

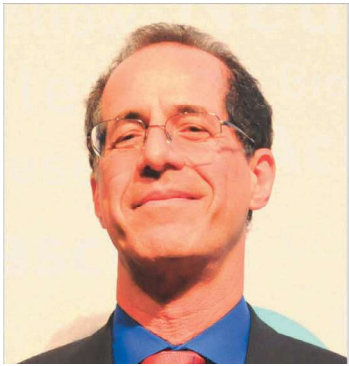
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Nan Morris and Bob Lewandowski, Cochairs
Say What? What's New in Hearing and Hearing Loss

Wednesday, March 26; 3:30–4:30 pm, Emerald Hall



Jay Rubinstein

Jay Rubinstein is the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Professor of Otolaryngology and Bioengineering and the Director of the Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center at the University of Washington. With a PhD in bioengineering and

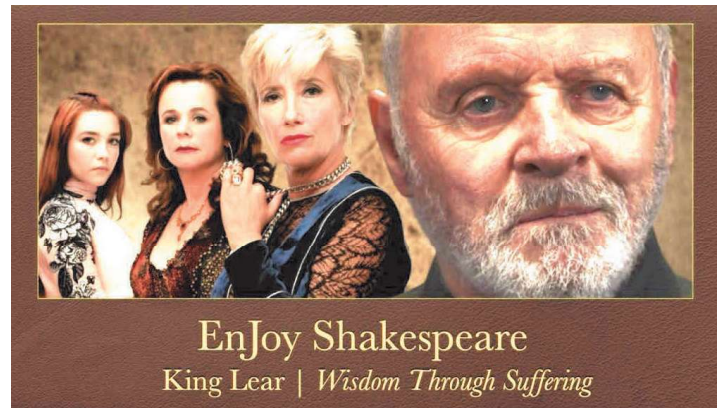
a medical degree from UW, followed by extensive fellowships in otolaryngology and neurotology (diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the inner ear and vestibular balance system), Dr. Rubinstein has combined the fields and continues to advance the understanding and treatment of hearing and balance issues. He has published over 140 peer-reviewed articles in science and bioengineering journals and provided training to a large number of otolaryngology residents, fellows, and pre- and post-doctoral trainees at UW. As the director of research at the UW Virginia Merrill Bloedel Research Center, he continues to advance understanding of cochlear implants and development of vestibular implants for balance issues, as well as studies on the genetics of hearing loss and models of gene therapy. He also maintains a surgical practice in otolaryngology at UW Medical Center and Seattle Children's Hospital. *NOTE: this program is on Wednesday, not the usual Tuesday.* Coordinator: Nan Morris.

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

Pat Harris, Chair

Enjoy Shakespeare: King Lear in Three Episodes

Mondays, March 3, 10, and 17; 3:30–5 pm, Emerald Hall



Enjoy Shakespeare
King Lear | Wisdom Through Suffering

King Lear

Paul Schmid presents Shakespeare's plays in a unique and fascinating way. We *will* watch part of a world-class film of *King Lear* with Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson, and then discuss the themes and symbols of that part by responding to questions that Paul has created to stimulate discussion. In the play, the eighty-year-old King Lear divides his kingdom among his daughters according to their affection for him. When his youngest daughter, Cordelia, refuses to flatter him, a hurt and angry Lear banishes her. The personal drama of *King Lear* revolves around the destruction of family relationships. This is indeed an outstanding play and a new way to enjoy it! It is optional to read the play with a book titled *No Fear Shakespeare: King Lear*. This book is published by Spark Notes for "teens and young adults." It has Shakespearean language on one side of each page, and plain English on the other. Do join us

CYCLE THE WORLD § PEEK AT THE UNIVERSE

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for an opportunity to share your own views as the group considers the relevance of various quotes and answers questions that will lead us to consider this drama in new ways. Coordinator: Sylvia Fisher.

The Technology Cafe: A Resident-to-Resident Sharing About Technology

Wednesday, March 5; 3–4:30 pm, The Bistro



Lifelong Learning is again sponsoring the Technology Cafe for resident-to-resident technology sharing. Please join us for conversation or with questions or just come have fun with us! Coordinator: Pat Harris.

Resident Revelations: Bill and Mary Ann Mundy—Will We Get Around the World?

Tuesday, March 11; 3:30 pm, Emerald Hall and Zoom



The Mundys in Dubai

For Bill and Mary Ann, bicycling has become a wonderful way to keep fit, meet the most interesting people, and intimately explore various parts of the world. Learn how Bill was attracted to a sweet

Midwesterner he met at an Adam and Eve dance in Green Bay, Wisconsin. To get a date with Mary Ann, he accepted her offer to go bicycling together. He didn't have a bicycle, so he was forced to go shopping and buy a bike. Since that meeting in 1965, they have bicycled more than 100,000 miles, through twenty-four countries and forty-one US states. If you go to their Mundy Farms website www.mundyfarms.com and click on the top banner "bicycling," you'll bring up a list of sixteen of their major trips. Below that list you'll find four past trips with pictures and written narratives. This will whet your appetite for more stories and pictures that you'll see on March 11. Coordinator: Judy Waring.

OLLI Lunch and Learn: Great Heroes and Discoveries of Astronomy with Emily Levesque

Monday, March 17; 12–1 pm, Emerald Hall

Bring your lunch to Emerald Hall or just come to hear Emily Levesque, a speaker we have enjoyed before. Astronomy is one of humanity's oldest sciences, and she believes that its greatest discoveries, advancements, and technological developments tell a remarkably compelling



Andromeda

story about our universe—and ourselves. In this talk she will share the cutting-edge science and human stories behind groundbreaking astronomical discoveries, examine how the pursuit of scientific research has evolved, and celebrate the many and varied heroes who have led the way in our exploration of the cosmos. Coordinator: Pat Harris.

TALKS IN HALL & ON ZOOM

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Breaking Down Barriers to Higher Education: The Story of Heritage University

Wednesday, March 19; 11 am–12 pm, Emerald Hall
and Zoom



*Heritage University
students*

Because Heritage University was founded by Yakama tribal members, this description of the presentation begins with the traditional recognition of the land use: ***Yakmumamí Tiichám*** (*The land of the Yakama People*). *We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the homeland and the first peoples who have stewarded it from time immemorial.*

Heritage University is a very special gem located in Toppenish, Washington. It was founded in 1982 by Yakama tribal members Martha Yallup, Violet Lumley Rau, and Sister Kathleen Ross. Heritage strives to make the dream of obtaining a higher education a reality for low-income, first-generation college students, most of whom are Hispanic and Native American. In this program, we will hear from its iconic founder Sister Ross and Heritage President Dr. Andrew Sund, who are sure to enlighten and inspire. Since the University's beginning, Heritage students have been empowered to overcome the social, economic, and geographic barriers that limit access to higher education. Sister Ross will share what it was like to found Heritage College, as it was originally named. Dr. Sund has led Heritage University with distinction since 2017. Under his leadership, Heritage has expanded its academic programs, increased student enrollment, and strengthened community partnerships. Coordinator: Barbara Daniels.

OLLI-UW March Zoom Lecture

Preregistration is required for all lectures. Lectures are free. Group viewing, if you wish, is in Conference Room A.

Consent and Dissent—In Black and White with Ellen Berg

Friday, March 28; 12–1 pm

Pre-registration Zoom link: <https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkcOqhqi4vH9OcNBEAxPb-lbqy9U7-7Q8A>

America has contributed to the world with its classical documents on consent and dissent—these texts, as the old riddle has it, are “black and white and red all over.” These classics (e.g. The Declaration of Independence, “Civil Disobedience,” and “Letter from Birmingham Jail”), were all written at times when “the urgency of now” was most apparent. It is not far-fetched to feel we are again at such a moment, and so this talk will review the definitions and practices these documents propose for both consent and dissent. Ellen Berg is a sociologist who has taught undergraduates and adults since 1986. The sociology of knowledge is one of the areas she has specialized in since graduate school.

Rebecca Albiani Introduces Ai Weiwei

Monday, March 31; 10:30 am–12 pm, Emerald Hall

Rebecca Albiani, a favorite art lecturer, will explore with us this globally renowned artist whose more than 130 works are coming to all three locations of the Seattle Art Museum.



Ai Weiwei

This exhibition, entitled *Ai, Rebel: The Art and Activism of Ai Weiwei*, will be his largest-ever US exhibition! He is celebrated as a disruptor of artistic canons and a champion

OUT & ABOUT

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of free expression. This quote of his, “Everything is art. Everything is politics,” gives us a glimpse of how, through humor and provocation, he calls upon his viewers to reexamine society and culture. Coordinator: Sylvia Fisher.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Sheila McConnell, Chair

Bri Bailey, Resident Services Director

Clint Turner, Security & Transportation Manager

David Miller, Wellness Coordinator

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. 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.

To Make or Cancel a Reservation: To reserve a place for any of the events scheduled by the Outside Activities Committee—listed here below, on various online and printed calendars, and on the Transportation pages on MIRANET—call or visit the Front Desk (x 1400) at least forty-eight hours before the trip. When you register with the Front Desk, the concierge will be able to tell you whether you are on the list or whether you are on the waiting list. If your plans change and you are unable to make the trip, please cancel by calling the concierge at x 1400 and allow someone who is waitlisted to use the space.

Accessibility: We strive to schedule events suitable

for everyone, but sometimes we are unable to guarantee that sites for our events can accommodate those with mobility difficulties. When we schedule, say, walks or special outings that may be challenging for those who need to use wheelchairs or walkers, we will mark them here with a double asterisk (**) to indicate that they have uneven or gravel surfaces or have especially hilly or otherwise obstructed paths.

Emergencies: If, while on a trip, you experience an emergency, like an injury, medical event, or any other problem that prevents you from getting to the bus, please call the Mirabella Front Desk immediately at (206) 254-1400.

Grocery Trips



Ballard Market/Safeway, Fridays, March 14, 28; 10–11:45 am

Costco, Wednesdays, March 5, 19; 9:45–11:30 am

Fred Meyer/PCC/Trader Joe's, Fridays, March 7, 21; 10–11:45 am

Metro Market/CVS, Mondays, March 3, 10, 24; 10–11:45 am

QFC/University Village, Mondays, March 17, 31; 10–11:45 am

Walks

Saturdays; leaving at 9:30 am and returning at 11:30 am

March 1 Lincoln Park (hilly to the beach) **

March 8 Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island (flat & hilly both) **

March 15 Myrtle Edwards Park (flat)

March 22 Volunteer Park (flat & hilly both) **

March 29 Alki Beach (flat)

Coordinator: Ardelle Knudsen, x 1811.

ON THE TOWN

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Sunday Church

Sundays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; leaving at 8:45 am and returning at 10 am

The bus goes to Christ Our Hope. Other church trips are by individual reservation only.

Cultural Events

Seattle Symphony: Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring*
Thursday, March 13; leaving at 6:45 pm and returning at 9:30 pm

Besides the Stravinsky, a new work by Brian Raphael Nabors and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22.

Pacific Northwest Ballet: *Emergence*
Saturday March 15; leaving at 1:15 pm and returning at 4:30 pm

Crystal Pite's *Emergence* returns after a six-year hiatus! Jerome Robbins' *Afternoon of a Faun* and Marco Goecke's *Mopey* are also on the program.

Seattle Rep: *Mother Russia*
Wednesday March 26; leaving at 1:15 pm and returning at 3:45 pm

Seattle Symphony: Holst *The Planets*
Thursday, March 27; leaving at 6:45 pm and returning at 9:30 pm

Sunday, March 30; leaving at 1:15 pm and returning at 4 pm

Also on the program is *Diaspora* by American composer Billy Childs.

Special Activities and Excursions

Cornish College of the Arts: Capstone Dance
Saturday, March 1; leaving at 1:15 pm and returning 3:45 pm

Come and see our own Glen Norris as the Cornish Dance seniors present their capstone projects in the form of choreography, performance, site-specific work, and screen dance. These students engage in a creative process that reflects on their dance research

over their time at Cornish and culminates in a shared performance of diverse works at the Cornish Playhouse, 201 Mercer Street. This promises to be a terrific show. To ensure a seat, please purchase nonrefundable tickets (\$15.50) online ahead of time. Let's support our local arts college!

Luncheonaires: Serious Pie

Wednesday, March 12; leaving at 11:30 am and returning at 1:30 pm

Jean Hall (x 1579) is coordinating this outing to Serious Pie, one of Tom Douglas's restaurants. Like all his restaurants, it gets great reviews. It is located at 2001 Fourth Avenue.

YouthCare Thirty-Ninth Annual Luncheon: "The Power of You"

Wednesday, March 19; leaving at 11:30 am and returning at 1 pm

Taking place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Seattle, this is YouthCare's annual fundraising luncheon to support its mission to end youth homelessness by creating a future where every young person can thrive. For more information contact Nickie Askov, x 1858.

Seattle Fire Department: Tour of Fire Station Ten

Thursday, March 27; leaving at 10 am and returning at 11:45 am

Fire Station Ten, a six-bay fire station, operates around the clock. At any time, eleven to twelve firefighters are on duty. The station provides decontamination facilities, modern living quarters for the crew, and disaster supply storage. The Seattle Fire Department's Resource Management Center (RMC) is located at the station. The Fire Alarm Center (FAC) is staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The facility includes a 911 fire/medic dispatch area, sleep rooms and staff support rooms, a training room, server/radio communication equipment rooms, administrative offices and

HISTORY & ART

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support spaces, and a 911 police back-up facility.
Coordinator: Glenda Maledy.

SIFF Surprise Movie

*Sunday, March 30; leaving at 3:30 pm and
returning at 6:30 pm*

SIFF's movie schedule at the Uptown Theatre is revealed about a week in advance. Residents who sign up (x 1400) will be notified as soon as the names 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).
Coordinator: Nickie Askov, x 1858.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Sally Hayman and Eddie Edmondson, Cochairs

The Complex Legacy of Henry Kissinger

Thursday, March 6; 3:30 pm, Emerald Hall



David Fenner

David Fenner returns to present a new topic to us as part of the Program Committee's speakers program. In the latter half of the twentieth century, Henry Kissinger was at the center of nearly

every major geopolitical event—and this is exactly where he wanted to be! From the prolonged war in Vietnam, the “secret” bombing of Cambodia, détente and arms control with the Soviets, the opening to China, the *realpolitik* of the Nixon years, the orchestrated coups in Latin America, and the Nobel Peace Prize shared with Le Duc Tho, to the wars in the Middle East and the advent of “shuttle diplomacy”—all bore the deep imprint of America's top foreign policy strategist and diplomat. We'll revisit Kissinger's role in these events and consider

how his impact shaped what's happening in the world today.

David Fenner is an affiliate faculty member at the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies. He has taught courses and has spoken at Mirabella on Russia, the Middle East, refugees, the politics of oil, and so much more. Most relevant to his lecture is a little-known fact that in 1973 David Fenner was bodily removed from a Yugoslavian hotel bar when his unauthorized boogie-woogie piano playing apparently disturbed Secretary Kissinger at a nearby table. This presentation will not be on Zoom. Please plan to attend live. Coordinator: Leslie Klein.

Sunday Jazz

Sunday, March 9; 2 pm, Emerald Hall

See the legendary jazz pianist George Shearing in his only full-length concert performance on DVD, magnificently filmed in 1991 in a state-of-the-art digital audio and video production at the beautiful Paul Masson Winery in Saratoga, California. He will be joined by the fabulous bassist Neil Swainson in presenting “Lullaby of Birdland.” A great performance you won't want to miss. Coordinator: Stafford Miller.

Kick Off a St. Patrick Celebration with Cavort

Thursday, March 13; 7 pm, Emerald Hall



Cavort (not pictured, Christine Traxler)

MUSIC AND “MUSH!”

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Since 2015 this band of fiddle, flute, bodhrán (small drum), and guitar has entertained audiences with hearty pub songs and vigorous instrumentals, reels, and jigs. Cavort will take you on an energetic Celtic journey of perilous passages and hooch-hiding.

The band members include Joe Tiernan (guitar), who hails from New York City and grew up listening to and playing Irish music heavily influenced by his family from Galway; Alec Keith (flute and whistles), a music teacher as well as a devotee and abundant contributor at local Irish pub traditional sessions; Christine Traxler, regarded as one of the best Irish fiddle players in the state; and Tami Curtis (bodhrán), who also manages the band and sings original and traditional Irish songs.

Let’s celebrate St. Patrick with a swing in our step and luck at our fingertips. Coordinator: RosaLea Taylor.

Ladies Musical Club: Music for a High Voice and a High Instrument

Saturday, March 15; 2 pm, Emerald Hall

This month’s musical offering begins with Emily Riesser, soprano, and Joan Lundquist, piano,



Emily Riesser

performing an aria from Mozart’s 1781 opera *Idomeneo*, followed by four songs from Richard Strauss’s Op. 48, *Freundliche Lieder* from 1900. The second half of the program will feature



Joan Lundquist

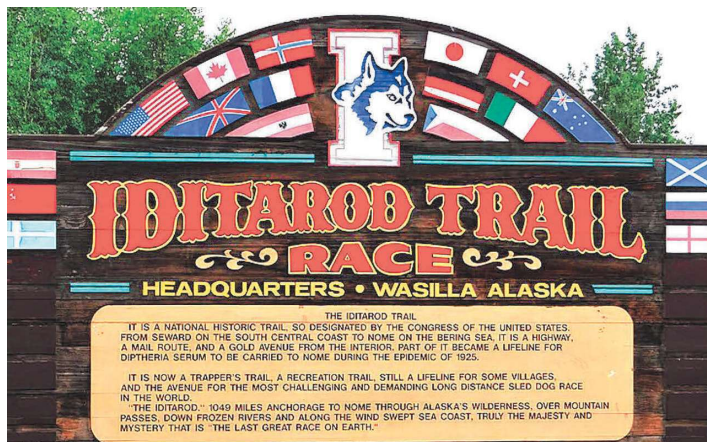


Stasia Kulsa

flutist Stasia Kulsa, who received undergraduate and graduate degrees in flute performance from Washington State University, where she also studied mechanical engineering. While working at Blue Origin as an acoustics engineer, she nevertheless finds time to perform regularly with several local ensembles. The details of her program are not yet decided, so come and be surprised. Coordinator: Sue Herring.

Iditarod: “The Last Great Race”

Thursday, March 20; 3:30 pm, Emerald Hall



Iditarod Trail sign – photo by T. Lucas

It may not surprise you, but it seems that being a “musher,” or dogsled driver, is a lot harder than it looks,” or so says Tom Lucas, who tried it out during one of his six visits to the Iditarod.

Held in March of every year, the Iditarod is Alaska’s 1000-mile dogsled race between Anchorage and Nome, Alaska. Tom, who loves ice, snow, and biting winds so much that he once kayaked just 500 miles away from the North Pole, keeps going back. It’s a great spectacle, yes, but it’s the remarkable sensitivity of the relationship between dog and human that most draws him.

Tom’s been sharing slides and stories of his adventure travels with audiences at Horizon House

CLIMATIC DISPLACEMENT

MARCH 2025

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for the last five years. This March, he'll bring them to us. About time. Tom is resident Barbara Standal's partner of more than 50 years. Coordinator: Sheryl Feldman.

Laure Struber, Pianist



Laure Struber

*Thursday, March 27;
3:30 pm, Emerald Hall*
French-born musician Dr. Laure Struber last performed at Mirabella in late July 2023, and she's excited to return and share her music with us. She will

present a program featuring the Bach-Brahms Chaconne in D Minor for the Left Hand, works by Debussy, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. Dr. Struber started playing piano at the age of three and studied at the Strasbourg Conservatory of Music. She came to the United States for the first time when she was twenty, studying at Syracuse University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She settled in Seattle in 2014, where she earned her Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance at the University of Washington.

Dr. Struber has performed throughout Europe and the United States as a soloist, chamber musician, and keyboardist for ensembles such as the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Inverted Space, and the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra. She currently teaches in her own piano studio, works for Pacific Northwest Ballet as a rehearsal pianist, and performs regularly both in solo and chamber music concerts, as well as with her own Trio Nouveau. Coordinator: Judy Waring.

Living Neighbor-Love: Climate Change and Migration

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

During her years working among and on behalf of refugees, Professor Judith Mayotte became aware of a growing number of the most vulnerable among us being displaced due to the intersection of climate and conflict,



Judith Mayotte

especially in the Darfur region of Sudan. She will focus on climate displacement as well as on the critical imperative for each of us to live neighbor-love through caring for creation in a changing climate. With so much attention on our southern border, Mayotte will offer insight on the migration pressures that are building from climate change. Coordinator: Sheryl Feldman.

Call for Submissions: Mirabella Poetry Fest

April is National Poetry Month, and Mirabellian poetry enthusiasts will celebrate by gathering to read their favorite poems aloud on **April 17**. If you would like to read a poem (your own or someone else's), please send the following to Bill Taylor (btaylor@seattleu.edu or Box 816) by **April 1**:

- » Your name and contact information
- » Name of the poet
- » Title of the poem
- » Text of the poem

Bill would prefer to receive submissions by email. There is no theme, so please share whatever poem you wish. While there is no maximum length for each poem, please bear in mind that the program is slated for one hour, so an epic like *Beowulf* or *The Iliad* just won't fit. Coordinator: Bill Taylor.

To get you in the mood for April, we have a poem for the month of March on the next page.



§ WELCOME, PATTY & MICK

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MARCH 2025

SPRING THUNDER

By Mark Van Doren (1894–1972)

Listen. The wind is still,
And far away in the night—
See! The uplands fill
With a running light.
Open the doors. It is warm;
And where the sky was clear —
Look! The head of a storm
That marches here!
Come under the trembling hedge—
Fast, although you fumble. . . .
There! Did you hear the edge
Of winter crumble?

Mark Van Doren was a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, novelist, and critic, and worked at *The Nation* from 1924–28 and from 1935–38. He was a member of the Society for the Prevention of World War III and a celebrated teacher at Columbia University.

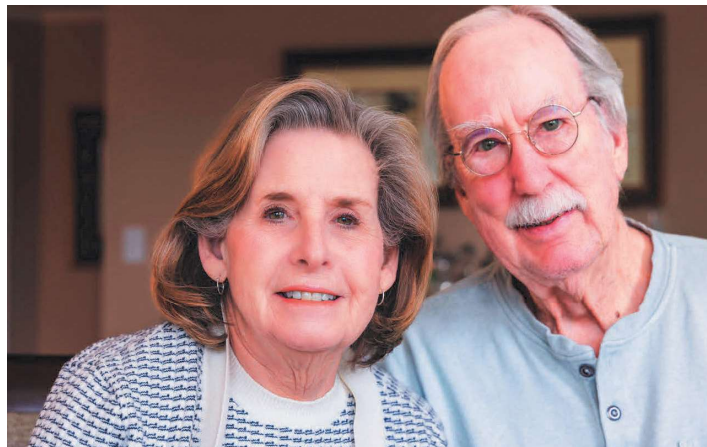
WELCOME COMMITTEE

Sue Herring, Chair

Patty and Mick Tronquet

After a long wait, Patty and Mick Tronquet have moved into unit 1034 with their sweet English lab, Sophie, recognizable by her signature green bow! Mick was born and raised in Seattle. He attended Seattle Prep and Seattle University, where he played on the SU basketball team.

Patty was born and raised in Santa Barbara, California. Her life there was filled with days at the beach or pool, Girl Scouts, and volunteer activities. She graduated from Marymount School for Girls before coming to Seattle to attend Seattle University. Patty met Mick on the first day of classes in their freshman year. After four years of dating and graduation, Patty and Mick were married December 21, 1968.



Patty and Mick Tronquet – photo by E. Hill

Mick served three years in the US Army as a finance officer. At the conclusion of his military service, Mick and Patty headed to Spokane where he attended Gonzaga Law School. They returned to Seattle and Mick worked for Ryan, Swanson, and Cleveland for thirty years, specializing in real estate and business law. Then he practiced law from a home office for another fifteen years. Mick has a passion for sports of all kinds, politics, and bears. They lived in their Magnolia home for forty-eight years until their move to Mirabella. Patty had her own floral and special event business for twenty-five years. She remains active in the Women's University Club and looks forward to getting involved at Mirabella. They have a son, two daughters, and one granddaughter, all of whom live out of state.

Judy Waring

BOOK CLUB

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

March 24 – We will discuss *The Last Stargazers* by Emily Levesque, an astronomy professor at the University of Washington. In this book she takes us inside the most powerful telescopes in the world and introduces us to the people who run them.

FRIENDS § GAMES

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April 28 – *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan is our selection for this meeting. This story follows the life of a slave in Barbados who becomes the manservant of his master's brother with whom he leads a life of dignity. But he is accused of a murder, and the story follows his flight to a remote outpost in the Arctic where he must invent another new life.

Everyone is welcome to come to our gatherings.
Coordinator: Tina Moss.

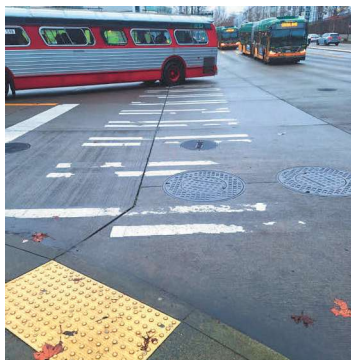
SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS

Tuesday, March 4; 5:30 pm, Vineyard Room

Supportive Friends, Mirabella's monthly opportunity for bereaved residents to share dinner and conversation, will meet Tuesday, March 4, at 5:30 pm in the Vineyard Room. Menu selection forms will be distributed in the mailboxes of regular attendees typically by the previous Friday. Please return to the Dining Room mailbox. New attendees are especially welcome. If you have never attended, you can get menu selection forms from the Dining Room mailbox in the Mailroom. Please contact Carolyn Blount, x 1644 with any questions.

WITNESS TO A TRIBUTE

BY GLORIA HENNINGS



Bus and tow truck caravan – photo by G. Hennings

One chilly day, January 10, I walked down to Sixth Avenue and Mercer Street. I wanted to witness the caravan of buses and tow trucks paying tribute to their fallen comrade. A fellow bus driver, Shawn Kim, had been killed while driving his route. Many buses and tow

trucks from around the area were to drive through Seattle in his honor. The procession was part of a day to remember Shawn and to highlight the need for increased safety of our bus drivers. I stood by myself on the corner as they turned to go up Sixth Avenue towards downtown. I waved at all, and they honked their horns to say, “thank you.” As the last of fifty buses turned the corner, I kept waving as they gave a honk. And then I walked home.

GAMES, SOCIAL CHATTER, AND COOKIES

BY GILL THOMPSON



Julia Wan, Marilyn Campbell, and Alice Arrington play Mexican train – photo by G. Sharp



Gerry Hoshijo and Jon Noll try their hands at low-stakes poker – photo by G. Sharp

READING THE PAST

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MARCH 2025

Cloudy days don't stop us from having fun. On a recent gray Monday afternoon, more than eighty residents gathered in the Bistro to watch, play, and learn about several games. Tables were set up to play cribbage, two types of mahjogg, Mexican train, and poker. Other games like bridge, pickleball, ping pong, and water volleyball had representatives present to talk about their games. Observers wandered around chatting and in some cases trying the games out. Cookies were on hand to add energy and fuel for the players.

The intent behind this event was to show newer residents some of the activities that go on in Mirabella and encourage potential players to join existing teams and even add more games. It has been a powerful way to develop new friendships and share common interests while having some fun. The Resident Business Office has copies of a list showing contacts for information about specific games. Even if you weren't at the event feel free to take a copy and pursue any game you may be curious about. All games would welcome new players.

Watch out for another of these events in a few months.



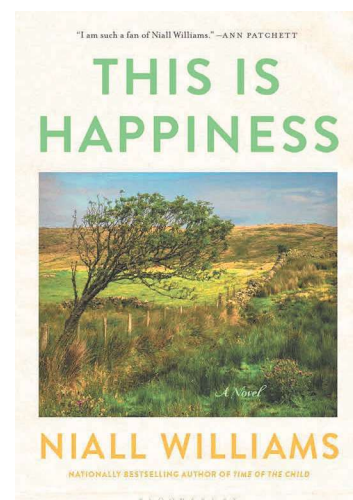
Bridge players Makiko Doi, Marilyn Campbell, Jean Hall, and Susan Dillon model their playing card glasses – photo by R. Bebee

BOOKENDS

BY MEREDITH REGAL

This Is Happiness by Niall Williams

I don't give many books five stars, but this one is a knockout. It sneaks up on you, starting out slowly, so if you're looking for a page-turner, this isn't it. The writing is luminous with never a trace of sentimentality or triteness. An example—this is in reference to a scene in which all the clothing in the narrator's house is hung outdoors in springtime to air out. The narrator, who is now elderly, is remembering this from the days of his youth:



This is Happiness

Some clothes carried into the garden let escape brown flights of moths whose larvae dated to the days of Parnell and who now transitioned into powder in mid-air. I saw them but did not remember for fifty years until I saw a figure pixilate on a screen. The moths of Easter, I said aloud, and they flew in memory and dissolved again the way the smallest things of your life do.

The depth of the characters—who could have been just charming eccentrics in the hands of a lesser writer—and the way Williams shows us the value of community, the power of the landscape, and the music of Ireland, are all handled expertly and beautifully.

Have a Favorite Book? Write a Review!

The Mirabella Monthly staff would like to compile an inventory of diverse book reviews for future publication in the *Bookends* column. Books need

MIRABELLA POETS PAGE

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not be new, just likely to be of interest to other residents. All contributions are welcome. Send your reviews to Laura White, General Editor of *The Mirabella Monthly* (angharadalbanes@gmail.com), who will compile the inventory.

Sue Herring

MR. SANDMAN

BY JIM LUTZ

Some dreams lock the door
When you awake.
You can bang and shout
And close your eyes,
But that ol' dream
Won't let you back inside
No matter what.

You can't rewind a dream
And play it over either.
Even the same dream
Is always a different dream,
Waving like a ghost
Of the dream before.

Dreams toy with us,
Like mice in a cat's paw,
Like landlords of the night.
A dream is always in charge,
And maybe it's just as well.

I'd hate to think
My crazy dreams
Were all my own creation.
Better to be innocent
Of the purpose of sleep,
Better to pretend
We got lost at sundown,
And that our dreams just found us
After dark.

THE TRUTH ABOUT AMERICA

By Janet Seery

Come look quick at the road
paved with gold just like they said;
here's your chance to be Croesus.
Jesus! Hurry before the fall sun slips
from the goldleaf coating the street.
Run, see the platinum
before winter's reverse alchemy
turns the avenues to silver.
Come smile, rub hands together, feel rich.
Let's go out and roll in the crisp gold.

LOVE IN SEATTLE

BY PAT HARRIS

Seattle in March means
A walk in the park with few people

Time to enjoy a delicate flower
In the park's winter garden

The yellow center is still curled into itself
Still protecting its pollen until warmer weather

Its white petals touched with dark pink
A narrow pink stripe covering half a petal

Petals looking particularly delicate
Because small drops of rain rest there

Petals delicate against shiny green leaves
Bright as any summer green

How could one not love Seattle's March
When walks are easy and flowers catch the heart.

BIRTHDAYS § POETRY CORNER § REMEMBERING

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MARCH 2025

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! MARCH 2025

4– Louise Lowry
7– Jack Blume
7– Larry Swift
7– Leslie Klein
8– Judy Rourke
9– Mick Tronquet
10– Bev Harris
11– Nancy Eliason
12– Mary Jossem

15– Don Ferrell
17– Paul McTaggart
17– Mike Hahn
18– Bill Broesamle
19– Diane Holmes
20– Pat Aitken
20– Glenda Maledy
21– Jon Noll
22– Bill Mundy

23– Dick Campbell
23– Corky Williams
25– Jared Curtis
25– Sue Herring
26– Ellie Fife
27– Don Drury
27– Mary Anne Keyser
28– Jayne Krentz

YOU WILL HEAR THUNDER

You will hear thunder and remember me,
And think: she wanted storms. The rim
Of the sky will be the colour of hard crimson,
And your heart, as it was then, will be on fire.

That day in Moscow, it will all come true,
when, for the last time, I take my leave,
And hasten to the heights that I have longed for,
Leaving my shadow still to be with you.

BY ANNA AKHMATOVA

About the Poet

Anna Akhmatova was the pen name of Anna Andreyevna Gorenko (1889–1966), a significant Russian poet of the twentieth century. Her work was condemned and censored by Stalinist authorities. She is notable for choosing not to emigrate and remaining in the Soviet Union, acting as a witness to the world around her. She was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1965 and 1966.



REMEMBERING

Ginnie Chappelle 2/6/2025

John Pehrson 2/22/2025



ON SCREEN IN EMERALD HALL

MARCH 2025

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MOVIE CORNER

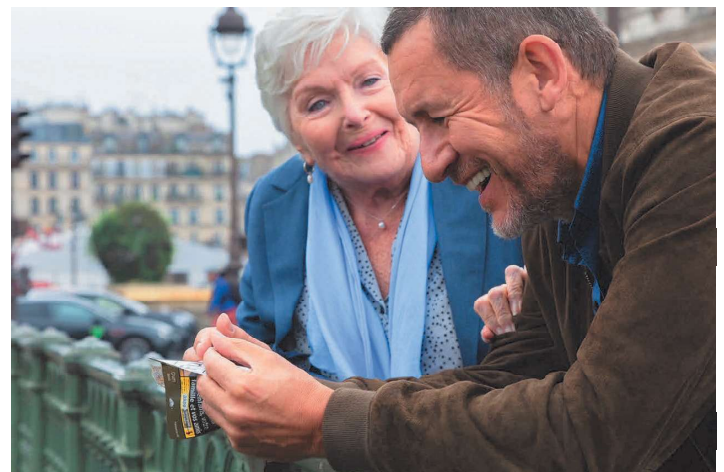
BY WARREN ASKOV



Ralph Fiennes in Conclave

On *Saturday, March 8*, we get a glimpse—or really a long stay—inside the Vatican in a movie of drama and intrigue. The entirety of *Conclave* (2024) takes place in the Vatican. The windows are sealed with dark curtains, the premises are swept for listening devices, and the assembled cardinals surrender their cell phones. The current pope has died suddenly of a heart attack, and the cardinals have been called to the Vatican to select a new pope. What follows is a visually stunning and tight drama about the theological, ethnic, and social conflicts presented by the assembled cardinals. The film is aided by an excellent cast. Ralph Fiennes plays Cardinal Thomas Lawrence, who organizes the conclave and steers it among the secrets, factions, and intrigues of the assembled cardinals. Fiennes received almost universal praise from critics for his portrayal. The film also stars Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Sergio Castellitto, and Isabella Rossellini. Though fictional, *Conclave* provides a vehicle to explore the tensions between liberal, conservative, traditional, and social reforms within the church . . . and just maybe mirrors the social and political divisions in our larger society.

The following *Wednesday, March 12*, we present a heartwarming French comedy/drama, *Driving Madeline* (2024). Charles (Dany Boon), a Parisian taxi driver, is facing a number of personal problems. He is not eager to take a fare that would take him way across Paris, but he realizes he needs the money. His passenger is ninety-two-year-old Madeline (Line Renaud), who has been court-ordered to move to an assisted care facility after a fall. She is in no hurry to go directly and asks to detour to scenes of her younger life. Charles grumpily agrees and gradually warms to her reminiscences, which are shown in flashbacks. Alice Isaaz plays the younger Madeline. Madeline has lived an adventurous ninety-two years, and we are treated to both her happy and unhappy recollections and romances. Line Renaud is herself ninety-six years old and a renowned singer and actor. She portrays Madeline with a charm that makes Charles, as well as us, want to know more. As they share the famous and lesser-known scenes of Paris through the windshield and in reenactment, they become more like new friends. We discover what interesting lives people have lived if we listen to them.



Driving Madeline



The Mirabella Monthly

EIGHT-TIME WINNER OF AN APEX AWARD FOR THE YEARS
2017–2024



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MARCH 2025

Guide to Mirabella Publications

The Mirabella Monthly

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General Editor: Laura White

Designer: Jimena Castria

General Manager: Diane King

Production Manager: Mike Hahn

Lead Editor, March: Sue Herring

Lead Editor, April: Mary Jossem

Copy Editors: Sue Herring, Mary Jossem, Louise Lowry, John Russell

Proofreaders: Copy Editors and Stephanie Abbott, Nickie Askov, Judith Baggs, Marilyn Campbell, Sheila Dietrich, Jean Hall, Betty Heycke, Chris Jamin, Jim Lutz, Tina Moss, Bill Poole, Helen Roberts, Mary Rogers, Judy Rourke

Production: Laura Bailey, Jane Beer, Susan Dillon, Makiko Doi, Nancy Eliason, Gloria Hennings, Diana Holland, Chris Jamin, Paul Keown, Diane King, Alice Lobenstein, Tina Moss, Jon Noll, Janet and Jim Ohta, Bertie Perry, Rhonda Plawner, Carolyn Roe, Judy Rourke, Ginny Sharp, Cathy Short, Mary Jo Taylor

How to Submit Events

The process for submitting events has been automated at Mirabella. Log onto MIRANET. On the home page, on the lower ribbon, click on “Event Request” (third option from the right). Fill in the boxes, scroll all the way to the bottom, and click on “Submit Form.”

How to Submit Articles

Before submitting copy, please proof it carefully for typos, spelling errors, accuracy of dates and times, and possible cuts or changes. Only original writing will be accepted. *The Monthly* is intended to showcase writing and images created by residents. We do not reprint internet captures, widely distributed emails, or previously published writing. The deadline for all submissions is the fifteenth of each month prior to the month of publication. Any piece submitted after this date will risk being held over. The length of your submission is negotiable, but the editorial team must work within the *MM* format and style. Guidelines are available on request. All written submissions will be edited, formatted, and proofed by *Mirabella Monthly* staff.

Please email your submission to Laura White at angharadalbanes@gmail.com.

MS Word or RTF documents work best. Pages documents should be “exported” to Word format before submission. A submission composed as part of your email to Laura White at angharadalbanes@gmail.com is also acceptable.

Tips for a successful submission:

- » Use the Enter or Return key only at the end of each paragraph.
- » Avoid elaborate text formatting, like columns, boxes, or effects.
- » Show emphasis by *italics*, never ALL CAPS, even in titles.

How to Submit Photos

A printed image requires a high pixel count to ensure a high resolution photo. JPEG is the most convenient format. Focus the image on the part of the scene that is most important. Submit each image at full size. When attaching an image to an email, choose the option for “original” or “full size.” Send digital images as attachments to Laura White angharadalbanes@gmail.com.