



Wishing you and yours the best for this holiday season

KEY PENINSULA NEWS



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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

December 2017 Vol. 44 No. 12

New Faces on Key Peninsula Community Council

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

On Wednesday, Nov. 8, the seven open seats on the Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) were filled. From a roster of 12 applicants, four incumbents and three new directors joined the council. Each will serve a two-year term.

The KPC, established in 2004, is a nonprofit organization created to maintain and improve the quality of life on the Key Peninsula. Council directors come from four areas, based on census tracts, with up to four directors from each area based on population. There are currently 15 directors, with four from Areas 1, 2 and 3, and three from Area 4.

Ideals of community service and the desire to assure the future of the community were common to all applicants for the positions. Four incumbents were reelected.

Area 1: Chuck West, KP Council president; Leona Lisa, Farm Council vice president.

Area 2: Jeremiah Saucier, with a primary concern on health and wellness issues.

Area 3: Jeremy Larcom, who has a background in finance and mass media.

The three new faces on the Key Peninsula Community Council are:

Area 2: Matthew Dean. Dean will be the youngest person serving on the council. He and his family moved to the Peninsula in 2015. He and his sister were homeschooled and were active in the homeschool community of the greater Gig Harbor area. He attended Olympic College in Bremerton as a high school senior under the Running Start program, and received his associate degree in 2017. He has been a regular contributor to the KP News, has worked at the Food Market in Key Center and now is employed at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Dean states that although he has a lot to learn, he wants to pay back to the community. He said, "Personally, it gives me a chance to contribute to a wonderful community. I recognize that we have something very special out here: People on the Key Peninsula care about where they live and what happens to it. People

CONTINUED PAGE 2



December: A Time to Slow Down

ANNA BRONES, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

The month of December has a tendency to pass in a flurry, the main focus concentrated on Christmas Day. The other days pass in anticipation, and often, a stress-inducing countdown. December has become an extension of our overbooked, overplanned, overdigitized lives; a month where chaos and stress levels collide.

It's cliché to say that we've forgotten the true meaning of Christmas, that today, Christmas is an overcommercialized affair that's about the procurement of things rather than generosity, caring and celebrating.

I'm the first one to agree, but I would also counter that in addition, we have forgotten the winter way of being. We have forgotten how to slow down, how to hibernate.

Our bodies and minds crave exactly that: seasonal adaptation. Summer is active, full of energy; in autumn, we begin to slow down, preparing for darker months. Winter rolls around and we embrace the darkness, things start to feel like they slow to a halt, and then spring returns, with the promise of rebirth and a new beginning.

Modern-day living doesn't always easily fall into this cycle. There are to-do lists and appointments no matter what time of year. And yet our internal clock is screaming for a little balance. It's impossible to live at full throttle all 12 months of the year.

But when the year starts to wind down, we often take a deep breath to get us through the holidays, and look to the new year for the blank slate that will allow us to hit the rest button.

Given this frenzy, it's no surprise that Christmas advertising and marketing works; it sells a cozy, slow image after all. Families in pajama sets sitting by the fire smiling at each other (if only you invested in those pajamas, your family would be happy too). A cup of tea on the windowsill overlooking a snowy morning (make sure to buy this particular brand of tea, or your mornings won't look like this). A couple on a winter walk through the woods (trust us, you can't go on one of these walks without buying these boots).

Here's the secret to that kind of living: You can't buy your way to that feeling; you have to create it yourself.

There are 31 days in December, and that means 31 days full of opportunity for enjoyment and rejuvenation. December is a wonderful time for food and friends, celebration and gathering. It's a month for hunkering down, embracing the darkness instead of succumbing to it, a month to slow down to the seasonal pace.

Light a candle. Make a new recipe. Invite a friend over for coffee. Make a gift instead of buying one, or support a local artist who makes something beautiful. Take a walk. Take a few hours to read a book. Turn the cellphone off. Put an auto-responder on your email. Don't post that photo to social media. Be in the moment.

December can often get deemed a "busy" month, but take the time to ask yourself, "What am I busy with?" Some obligations and deadlines are entirely self-imposed; only we have the power to change that.

This December, take time to slow down.

AVID Program at KPMS Develops Lifelong Learners

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Rachelle Welander's eyes light up when she talks about the elective classes for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders she teaches at Key Peninsula Middle School (KPMS). "Showing kids that they can do anything, that learning is lifelong. That has been my passion for my entire life, and this program helps me to do just that," she said.

KPMS incorporated AVID (Achievement via Independent Determination) into its curriculum three years ago. It is a national program focusing college preparedness for "middle achiever" students typically underrepresented in college. The curriculum develops writing and organizational skills, as well as having students reflect on their own learning, learning style and study skills. They also visit college campuses and learn about financial aid.

The school identifies students to participate, but each student agrees to take AVID as an elective. This year the classes are fully enrolled.

The curriculum starts with basics, students are given planners and binders and shown how to use them to build organizational skills.

The program also teaches techniques to simplify learning new concepts. Using a Cornell notes template, they explore an essential question—breaking it into main components and then taking notes about those ideas from things they read or discuss. The system connects students to information while they learn how to use it.

Each week, they meet with tutors to review worksheets listing "points of confusion" they don't understand in their classes. Said Welander, "The worksheets help students learn how to think, to slow down, break it up, understand what you do know and where you are confused." Welander emphasizes to her students that the grade they receive in a class does not correlate with points of confusion. "I want them to know that you can get an A and

CONTINUED PAGE 3



Salmon returning to spawn in local waters. *Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*

Thirty-Six Acres on Key Peninsula Slated For Conservation

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The Pierce County Council recently added two separate Key Peninsula properties to its priority list for acquisition under the Pierce County Conservation Futures Program.

One approval authorizes Key Peninsula Parks staff to begin the process of purchasing or obtaining development rights on a 1-acre parcel, referred to as Taylor Bay Phase II, which is intended to further enhance property already under management by the park district.

The other approval, for 35 acres along east Rocky Creek, will provide essential habitat for Chinook, coho, chum and cutthroat. “The property has good spawning habitat and healthy forests. The Squaxin Island Tribe approves of acquiring and protecting parcels such as this that ultimately benefit fish and shellfish by promoting healthy salt-

water watershed hydrology that proliferates downstream to promote a healthy salt water base,” said Erica Marbet, water resource biologist for the Squaxin Tribe.

Conservation efforts are most successful when government partners with groups such as Forterra, the Nisqually Land Trust, the Great Peninsula Conservancy and other private land trusts to help stretch taxpayer investments even further with finance and management plans, according to Pierce County Councilman Derek Young.

Conservation proposals are prioritized thanks to the work of a citizens advisory board that helps determine the worthiness of proposed projects and advises the county council of properties under the greatest threat of development and where conservation would be most beneficial to the ecosystem.

The council approved 13 unique parcels, totaling 1,371 acres, for conservation countywide in 2017.

NEW FACES, FROM PAGE 1

come together to support each other when things are bad, and they come together to celebrate when things are good. Lots of places have a good sense of community, but I don’t think there are very many places that have so many people actively working to improve their home. To be a part of that is a great honor for me.”

Area 3: Constance Harris. Harris identifies her greatest concerns for the future development as transportation, health and hunger. Harris was involved in organizing the Blue Grass Festival and in local food banks. She said, “Since moving to the Peninsula in 2000, I have observed the growth of our community and desire to assist with these mounting issues.”

Area 4: Kristen Augutziny. Augutziny moved to the Peninsula from Stanwood/Arlington nearly three years ago. Prior to moving to Lakebay, she owned an insurance agency, was active in the Arlington/

Smokey Point Chamber of Commerce, and served on several committees for the City of Arlington and the Stanwood/Camano School District. Since arriving she has been active in developing a neighborhood watch group in the Tiedeman area and has provided support for other neighborhoods wishing to organize crime prevention groups.

Augutziny said, “These experiences showed me first-hand how a group of capable, dedicated citizens can direct change in their communities and brought me great pleasure to be part of seeing those needed changes happen. I understand that any community is only as good as its citizens and the more effort we all put into our communities, the better they get.”

Meetings are open to the public, on the second Wednesday of each month at the Key Center Fire Station. For more information see the website at www.kpcouncil.org.



County Council members, from left to right, Jeremy Larcom, Kristen Augutziny, Constance Harris, Matthew Dean. *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*



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West Sound Wildlife Shelter volunteer Kerry K holds ambassador Great Horned Owl at a November presentation on wildlife rehabilitation sponsored by the Friends of the Key Peninsula Library *Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News*



AVID 8th-graders show off their participation in the program. Below: AVID 6th-graders at work in tutorial session. *Photos: Rachelle Welander*

KPMS PROGRAM FROM PAGE 1

still not fully understand everything,” she said.

Small groups of students meet with volunteer tutors who act primarily as coaches, leading students to discover their own answers.

In addition, each student works on a Socratic seminar several times a year. The current topic is whether or not Hurricane Harvey was the result of climate change. Students explore their own opinions, read articles with opposing points of view, and come to their own conclusion.

Eighth-grade AVID students commented on how the program has affected them. “I have learned how to reflect and understand,” said one. “I have better grades” said another who is now getting As and Bs. Last year his pattern was to bounce from a D or F and dig himself out to pass at the last minute. “I feel like part of a team,” said another. “I’m organized now. I can find everything.”

Donations from the Angel Guild allowed students to go on field trips to Tacoma Community College and Pacific Lutheran University. A visit from local college students is planned later this year.

Welander said, “I see students go from not really caring to being excited about what happens after high school. They no longer believe that college is just for rich kids. They have a plan. It may go from a simple plan now to something bigger when they are in high school. It’s exciting to see the learning that starts here become a lifelong trait.”



Santa Tim Lorang with a happy group.

Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News



Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit Winter Warm-Up, Captured in Photos by Key Peninsula News Team

At the invitation of the Key Peninsula Civic Center’s Patricia Ghiossi, Key Peninsula News designer Tim Heitzman and photographer/writer Lisa Bryan created and photographed scenes with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the busy and popular event.

Assisted by expert Elf Caitlin Cahoun (shown here), Mr. and Mrs. Claus, aka Tim and Linda Lorang, greeted and cajoled more than 60 sittings, ranging from a crying 11-month-old to the entire middle school jazz band. Photographer Bryan captured each at their best in the holiday portrait setting.

The free photos, provided as a courtesy by this newspaper and the Civic Center, were delivered by email after the event.

Even though some families waited in line for up to 20 minutes, the time spent on Santa’s lap was truly a winter warm-up.



December 2017
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ALL HALLOWS EVE THANKS Even with all the rain and wind, members of our community came out to Volunteer Park on October 21st to put on a spooky All Hallows Eve Celebration! We are sincerely thankful to our sponsor, Bruce Titus Tacoma Subaru, and to several organizations who provided volunteers: Red Barn Youth Center, KP Community Council Youth Council, and KP Baptist Fellowship. Thank you also to: Marilyn & Jerry Hartley, Cheryl Prante, Shawn, Sami & Isabel Jensen, Mark & Traci Michel, Rita Lanier for the use of her tractor & A.J. Hollaway and Ray Arends for driving it

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In November, Debbie Cassidy took charge of Sunnycrest Nursery. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

New Owner Brings Ideas, Plans to Sunnycrest

DON TJOSSEM, KP NEWS

Debbie Cassidy fulfilled a lifelong dream when she recently purchased Sunnycrest Nursery from Dale and Claudia Loy. Sunnycrest has been in business for 35 years and has served as the unofficial information center and ticket outlet for organizations on the Key for much of that time.

When asked if there would be noticeable changes, Cassidy indicated, "The first change will be new paint, inside and out. I do have some changes in mind, but they will take place slowly and I will certainly be listening to customer input and requests."

Cassidy hopes to add a fully operating greenhouse. She also plans to expand the selection of native plants and add new garden décor items.

When asked if there would be any personnel changes at Sunnycrest Nursery, Cassidy replied, "All employees will be retained, other than for the normal seasonal variations that have always occurred in the past." In fact, Dale and Claudia Loy will be there for a few months to assist with the transitional phase and to share their experiences with her.

Cassidy's interest and expertise in Northwest gardening is perhaps best seen in her YouTube series, "Garden Style NW." These high-quality videos already have more than 2,000 subscribers watching. Geared to beginning gardeners, the weekly videos

with floral and gardening topics recently featured a tour of the Sunnycrest facilities, posted on Nov. 5.

After living in Poulsbo for 25 years, Cassidy moved to the Key Peninsula three years ago. Her daughter and two grandsons make their home in California.

The daughter of a career U.S. Air Force officer, she was born in Great Falls, Montana, and attended 13 different schools before it was time for college. When her father asked her what she wanted to major in, she said, "Anything to do with plants." She found that the horticulture program at Western Washington University filled the bill, and she completed her bachelor of arts degree with a specialty in landscape design.

Following graduation, she worked in many retail settings, including Home Depot, Ashly Furniture and Pier 1 Imports. She has consulted under the name Garden Style NW and registered the name as an LLC in September of this year.

Said Claudia Loy, as she and Dale prepare for their next, post-Sunnycrest phase, "We wanted to hand the reins over to an owner who will continue to support and nurture and enjoy the community. Debbie is the perfect person to do just that."

Sunnycrest Nursery is located at: 9004B Key Peninsula Highway North in Key Center. The phone number is 253-884-3947. Website: sunnycrestnursery.com

Seasons Greetings

Please help us provide food and basic needs to Key Peninsula residents that need our support.

Your donation is tax deductible and will make all the difference to a hungry child, senior or person with disabilities living in our community. Last year, 11.6% of WA households were food insecure and 4.6% were hungry. *Our Key Peninsula community needs your tax deductible support.*

Thank you
for giving to our year-end appeal

Donate now: PayPal @keypeninsulacommunityservices.org
Mail to PO Box 392, Lakebay WA 98349 or call (253) 884-4440



Cultural Exchange and Teaching Intersect to Benefit Travelers and Farmers

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Two Key Peninsula families are building international connections and teaching young people about farming and life in our rural community. Maureen Reilly and husband Jim Reynolds, and neighbors Greg and Maureen Sikora have both participated with web-based organizations that connect volunteers with hosts. Volunteers from the United States and from all over the world learn as they work beside hosts for several hours a day and receive room and board for their efforts.

Reilly and Reynolds hosted for the first time this November. “I don’t have family in the area and it’s a great way to get to know people from other places and generations,” she said. She filled out a form on the website for HelpX, describing her home and location, meal and housing arrangements, when she had openings, and a bit about herself and her husband. Cormac, who is from Ireland, and Lara, who currently lives in Ireland but is originally from Spain, had some prior exposure to HelpX; one of Lara’s friends traveled to New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. using the program. She and Cormac wanted to visit the Seattle area and liked Reilly’s profile, with music and alpacas as a big draw. “Maureen’s Scottish background,” Cormac said, “made it sound like a bit of home.”

They arrived at an opportune time. Reilly was just a week post shoulder surgery and having young fit volunteers was a blessing. Over their weeklong stay, the two helped clear brush, fixed a fence, fed the alpacas, walked the dogs, shoveled alpaca compost to transport to a neighbor’s, and gathered and piled firewood. On their final day, they felt alpaca scarves.

The night before they told their hosts about Pizza Sunday Club, a non-profit Cormac founded in Dublin. It aims to break down the barriers between people experiencing homelessness and other members of the public by gathering at a set location every Sunday to provide free pizza and live music with the opportunity for everyone to hear each other’s stories. They also shared that for the rest of their trip, they planned to be kindness ambassadors, part of a program from the nonprofit Life Vest Inside.

Said Reilly, “It adds a whole other aspect to their character and mission in life. We will be keeping in touch with them. It’s lovely to make friends in that generation.”

The Sikoras have been hosts through WWOOF at their Gentle Giant Meadows Ranch for seven years. The WWOOF website describes itself as a worldwide movement linking volunteers with farmers and growers to promote cultural and educational experiences based on trust and non-monetary exchange, helping to build a sustainable, global community.

“It’s an unbeatable equation, I think. You don’t spend any money, you help out, and you learn a lot. It’s really a win-win situation,” said Mike, a young Dutch traveler as he described his experience at Sikora’s farm.

The Sikoras moved to the Key Peninsula from England 13 years ago. Greg was in England for 10 years with Boeing and the couple met there. When they decided to move back to the States, they wanted a place for horses and found the 40-acre farm online. “It reminded me of England,” said Maureen.

Both Sikoras emphasized the teaching aspect of what they do, and the educational opportunities on the farm are many. They raise cattle and sheep, and grow hay. For their personal consumption, they have a Jersey cow for milk and butter, a vegetable garden, wine grapes and a small orchard. Greg has a sawmill on the premises. The average stay is one to three weeks, largely because after three weeks they feel they have optimized the learning experience.

“The young people who live here want to know how food gets from farm to table and to be assured that the animals are treated humanely,” said Maureen. She tends to the horse boarding business and cooks the meals, while Greg is the primary teacher for the “WWOOFers.” He noted his pre-Boeing background as a science teacher in Montana has stood him in good stead.

“We have had people visit from all over the world and with every religion. It has been fun to cook menus that represent the cultures of our visitors,” she said. “They call this ‘the happy place.’ We’ve had some return, and one couple got engaged here.”

Editor’s note: Maureen Reilly currently works on the KP News sales staff.



U.S. visitor arrows at Gentle Giant Meadows Farm. Photo: Maureen Reilly, KP News

More about the organizations mentioned in this article:

These organizations offer cultural exchange and learning opportunities:

- HelpX www.helpx.net
- WWOOF www.woof.net
- Workaway www.workaway.info

For more information about the Sunday Pizza Club visit pizzasundayclub.com

Life Vest Inside also has a website: www.lifestinside.com



Lara and Cormac shovel alpaca manure as part of their contribution. Photo: Maureen Reilly, KP News

Dan Whitmarsh

WRITING BY FAITH



Love is the Answer

Winter is rapidly approaching. Outside my window, fog shrouds bare-limbed trees as rain fills the creek coursing into Mayo Cove. Thanksgiving is but a memory and Christmas decorations sparkle in the dark of night.

This has been a difficult year for our country. In horror, we've witnessed gun violence erupting at music festivals, churches and schools. Verbal violence infects our political discourse. Stories of sexual violence are told almost daily. It's hard to find evidence of "Peace on Earth, goodwill toward all."

In his groundbreaking book, "Violence: Reflections on a National Epidemic," psychologist James Gilligan shared what he learned while working with America's most violent criminals. He found that, in every case, these men who had committed horrific acts were marked by a deep sense of shame. He wrote, "I have yet to see a serious act of violence that was not provoked by the experience of feeling shamed and humiliated, disrespected and ridiculed."

Too many men and women are weighed down by shame, feeling lost and powerless. In desperate loneliness, unable to cope with feelings of shame, they lash out at those around them. Sometimes, it's a cruel word; sometimes, it's at the end of a rifle.

Much time and energy is spent seeking ways to stop random acts of violence. It is a complex issue without easy answers, but I believe there is an antidote found at the heart of the Christmas story.

Christmas reminds us that, at the center of reality, a voice says, "You are loved. You matter." Shame encounters the story of a baby named Jesus, God's voice to humanity that we are loved and accepted, and that even in our brokenness, the primary posture of the Creator is unstoppable love.

This is not the love of cheap sentimentality. This is a sacrificial love, a love that pays a great price, proving itself by rolling up its sleeves and doing the hard work of overcoming the dragons of guilt and shame. It is a love that embraces us even when we're messy. The old gospel story tells us we are loved just as we are.

As you go through this Christmas season, look for signs of this love around you. Hear The Mustard Seed Carolers spreading holiday cheer. See the joy of families searching together for just the right Christmas trees. Witness the kindred joy of

the community gathered at the Key Center tree lighting, singing boisterous carols while children wait impatiently for Santa.

On Christmas Eve, churches will assemble in hushed candlelight to recite the ancient angelic message of "Good tidings of great joy, which is for all people..." This is the essence of that good news: We are all loved. Shame, doubt and fear are cast aside in the presence of perfect love.

As we receive that love and walk in love with one another, the loneliness and hopelessness of shame are replaced by joy and gladness. Christmas tells us we are loved; may we all love one another well through this season and beyond.

On behalf of the Key Peninsula Ministers, I wish you a peaceful Christmas and holiday season.

Dan Whitmarsh is a pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

Joseph Pentheroudakis

ON THE WING



The Annual Christmas Bird Count

It was a beautiful Christmas morning at Fresh Pond Reservoir in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Clear skies, very light winds out of the northwest, temperatures just above freezing. The pond was a busy meeting place for birds that day: mallards, black ducks, black-backed gulls, but especially American herring gulls. At 9:30 there were 250 of these, and by 11:30 their numbers had increased to 1,375.

The year was 1900, and the amateur ornithologist at Fresh Pond, Walter Deane, was one of 27 participants at the first Christmas Bird Census. In all, 25 reports were sent back from Ontario, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and even California. The final tally that first year was 89 species and a stunning 18,500 individual birds.

The annual bird census was off to an auspicious start. As with many ideas that strike a chord and take hold, its story is one of individual vision and group advocacy that ultimately lead to change.

Wild birds and humans have not always enjoyed a peaceful coexistence, at least not from the birds' point of view. In the 1800s hunters in many areas participated in the Christmas Side Hunt, organizing in "sides" and competing to see which side would shoot the greatest number of wild birds and other small animals. The winning teams were often featured in sportsmen's magazines, along with photos of the hunters

and their kill.

As if that custom weren't enough, by the late 1800s bird feathers had become prized fashion accessories. Unfortunately, getting them often required killing the birds, usually during their mating season when feathers tend to be more colorful.

Ornithologists as well as ordinary bird lovers were understandably alarmed.

Enter Frank M. Chapman, an ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. In 1900 Chapman, founder of Bird-Lore, an illustrated bimonthly magazine dedicated to the study and protection of birds, conceived of the Christmas Bird Census as an event to counter the Christmas Side Hunts. The census was announced in Bird-Lore; counts were published in the magazine and made available to all.

Even though the reports did include interesting population data and unusual sightings, Chapman's primary goal was to educate the public and to help change attitudes toward birds on what would turn out to be a grand scale.

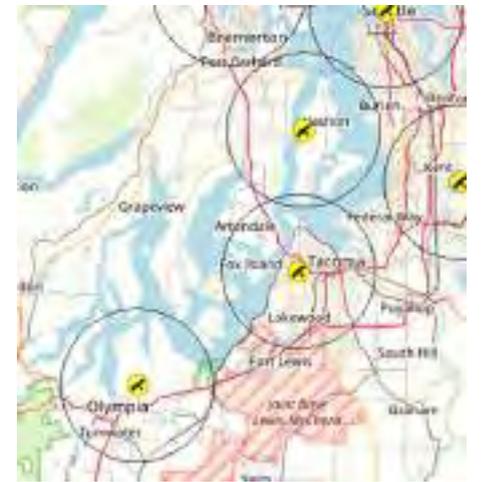
Chapman also knew that for a new tradition to be successful, it needed to be fun. Following the first census, he wrote, "We trust that the spirit of wholesome competition aroused by Bird-Lore's bird census added materially to the pleasure of those who took part in it." The birders among us know that it did.

We can say with confidence, 118 years later, that Chapman's vision has been an unalloyed success. Bird-Lore became Audubon Magazine, now just Audubon, and the Christmas Bird Count has continued uninterrupted, drawing thousands of participants every year and spurring interest in birds and wildlife. According to Audubon, at the 116th season (2015-2016), 76,669 volunteers tallied 58,878,071 birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands. And as Faye McAdams Hands of Tahoma Audubon points out, the annual count "has produced a treasure trove of data, especially showing trends, and is open and available to scientists everywhere, citizen or professional."

The count takes place over a couple of weeks around Christmas. Count regions are divided into circles, each 15 miles in diameter; there are over 2,000 count circles in the United States, Canada and the other participating countries. A count compiler coordinates each count, assisted by volunteers who cover specific areas in the circle. You can count birds in your back yard if you are inside a designated circle.

This year's count is set for Dec. 14, 2017 to Jan. 5, 2018. The actual count date varies from circle to circle, and can be found at

christmasbirdcount.org. An interactive map will display the circles near your area, with the date and contact information.



Puget Sound Christmas Bird Count circles.

Source: christmasbirdcount.org

So grab your binoculars and your field guides and join the fun!

If you want to go, there are two counts closest to the Key Peninsula:

Tacoma, run by Tahoma Audubon (tahomaaudubon.org), Saturday, Dec. 16. The area includes Gig Harbor. Contact Faye McAdams Hands at zest4parus@hotmail.com.

Vashon Island, run by the Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society (vashonaudubon.org) on Dec. 31. This count includes the areas around Burley Lagoon, part of Henderson Bay and the waters around Gig Harbor; it will count aquatic birds as well as land birds. Contact: Diane Yorgason-Quinn, avosetta@hotmail.com.

Joseph Pentheroudakis is an artist and avid birdwatcher. He lives on Herron Island.

Rachel V. Berry

KP DAY TRIPPER



A Winter Wildlife Walk in the Rain? Yes, Please.

Winter in the Pacific Northwest can be grueling. It's not so much the rain and snow as it is the lack of sunshine that makes us all grumpy. It's a time when getting out of the house is more of an imperative—and here's a perfect day trip to raise your spirits, regardless of the weather.

The Olympia area, just a short drive from the Key Peninsula, traditionally enjoys a mere six days of sunshine in January. Fortunately, light drizzle and cloudy skies mean it's perfect wildlife viewing weather during a visit to Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. It's located via an easy I-5 exit at the southern end of Puget

Sound, between Joint Base Lewis McChord and Olympia on the Nisqually River Delta.

Established in 1974, the wildlife refuge occupies a historic spot. In 1854, it was the site of the signing of Washington Territory's first treaty with Native Americans. The treaty protected game and fishing rights for the tribes, rights that are still exercised today by members of the tribe. It's also where, in 1904, Alson Brown built a prosperous farm which he subsequently sold after World War I. Refuge visitors can still see remnants of the farm operation, such as the Brown Farm Dike and the Twin Barns.

Today, the area is home to not just a myriad of bird species, including eagles and other birds of prey, but visitors might also see otters, beaver, seals, weasels, mink and other animals that frequent the tide flats and freshwater marshes. The area was recently renamed to honor Billy Frank Jr., a Native American environmentalist, treaty rights activist and a member of the Nisqually Tribe. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his dedication to these causes in 2015, and the refuge was named in his honor a short time later.

Your first stop at the refuge should be the visitor center, open Wednesday-Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to enjoy an overlook of the freshwater marsh and interpretive exhibits and to grab an informational pamphlet. (If visiting in January, you'll also want to ensure that all trails are open.) Then head out on the half-mile Barns Loop Trail, a boardwalk sitting just above the wetlands, with interpretive signs along the way to help you spot resident wildlife. It leads to the Brown Farm Dike Trail, popular with Canada geese, and the Nisqually Estuary Boardwalk Trail, which traverses the delta. If the tide is out, visitors will see a variety of shorebirds; if the tide is in, ducks and other waterfowl abound.

The nice thing about the Barns Loop Trail is that the tree canopy somewhat shelters the boardwalk from precipitation. But watch for ice if it is cold! The Nisqually Estuary Boardwalk Trail has a covered duck blind and a covered pavilion where visitors can rest or take shelter. If you make it to the end of the boardwalk, you'll find the covered Puget Sound Viewing Platform which provides glimpses of McAllister Creek, the Olympic Mountains, Mount Rainier and several Puget Sound islands.

Since the entrance fee is a mere \$3 per car, it's a great and affordable adventure for everyone. National Parks passes (including senior passes) are also valid for free entrance.

Travel Facts

It is approximately 40 miles from the Key Peninsula to the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Pets are not

allowed. Trails are open dawn to dusk daily. From Interstate 5 southbound, take exit 114. Make a right at the traffic light, go under the freeway and make a right into the refuge. Follow the entrance road to the two public parking lots.

Rachel V. Berry lives in Port Orchard.

Meredith Broward KEY ISSUES



White Supremacy Groups on the Peninsulas

I love living here. When my husband and I moved to the Pacific Northwest over a decade ago, we knew instantly that this was where we belonged. In our eyes, it was simply perfect; a small town that was still close to everything, a fantastic place to raise children, and an area that felt welcoming and affirming to all. We've spent the last 11 years making the area our home and we couldn't be any more grateful, which makes the recent posting of white nationalist propaganda in the area so disturbing to me.

When I first spotted the "Blood and Soil" flyers on Borgen Boulevard in Gig Harbor I was incensed. I couldn't believe that this hate was publicly posted in my beloved town. The flyers directed readers to a website for Patriot Front, a self-avowed white nationalist group. The manifesto posted on their website reads: "White America needs a generation of brave men to fearlessly rise to face all threats to their collective interest. A force of men and women steeled in their effort to realize their vision of a new nation. This gathering of the faithful, the true inheritors of America, will urge our people onward. As the State grows weak, we will grow strong."

I'm not naive enough to think that local white nationalist activity arose because of recent national events but I certainly think they're connected. White nationalists who live in our area likely feel more comfortable coming out of the dark after events like the Charlottesville march, the refusal of our president to condemn white supremacy, and the rise of white nationalist media outlets. The flyers posted on Borgen Boulevard are a clear signal to all of us that white supremacy is in our midst and it is our responsibility to take a stand.

But what can we do? I felt frustrated, ashamed, and helpless after the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville turned deadly, and I knew I had to do something. Staying quiet in my comfortable Pacific Northwest

CONTINUED PAGE 8



CIVIC CENTER

CORNER

Winter Warm-up thanks to—

Winter Warm-up tenth anniversary crafts fair was a great success - thanks to our community. The Key Peninsula Civic Center was the place to be Saturday, Nov. 11 with record numbers in attendance and over 60 booths of crafts.

Our dedicated and competent Cat Tales 4-H team of runners, Alexa, Amelia, Joey, Kayleigh, Marcia, Marianne, Will; our Santa team, Tim Heitzman & Lisa Bryan from KP News, Tim Lorang & Linda/Santa-Northwest helped by elf Caitlin/Cat Tales 4-H; our Kitchen team, Pat Medveckus, Peggy Gablehouse, Kris Barton & Claudia Jones; face painting/Key Peninsula Baptist Fellowship, Awana; parking Jeanette Peterson; entertainment by Vaughn Elementary Drum Ensemble & Choir/Lisa Mills, Director; Bluegrass Minstrels, Key Peninsula Middle School Jazz Band/Sarah Kaal, Director; vendor Rylee Coggin who helped pull raffle numbers and our committed board & friends who set up, manned various functions and cleaned up, Phil Bauer, Norm Brones, Ed Brown, Scott Dervaes, Tracy Geiss, Jena Henak, Tim Kezele, Claudia Loy, Dale Loy, Bruce Macdonald, Jud Morris & John Nichols.

Very special thanks go to Peninsula Light for sponsoring the event and to wonderful vendors who contributed raffle items—

2nd Chance Bottles, A Hen and Her Chick, All Things Embroidered, Aloha from Paradise Signs, Angeebies, Aspirations By Paula, Barb Fredricks, Bee Lady, BG Gourmet BBQ Sauce, Butterfusion, Calico Carla, Calliope Crowns, Carnaby Street, Crafts by Crystal Dawn, Crafty Sisters, Donna Oliver, Donna's Creations, EK ARTS, Estella Whitford, Evelyn's Crafty Corner, Ewe-Nique Quilts & Gifts, Fairview Lake Studios, Gail Kelly, Gilman Trading Company, Girl Scouts, Hallie Harris Designs, Happy Hour Soap Works, June Moon Jewelry, Key Peninsula Historical Society & Museum, Mama's Bowtique, Minerva Badillo, My Legacy Creations, Nature Girl Soap Co, Patty Finnigan, Purdy Organics, Richard A.M. Dixon, Rjsilverwears, Ron Cameron, Savana's Jewelry, Smolko's Farm & Bees, Sound Shores Studio, Studio Siva and Longbranch Designs, Sundance Designs, SuperTot, Two Chicks Dyeing & WineRWelighting!

Spring Events

Feb 10 Crab Feed

April 14 Big Band/
Swing Dance



Everyone at the Key Peninsula Civic Center wishes all a very merry holiday season and happy new year!

WHITE SUPREMACY FROM PAGE 7

life wasn't an option for me. I wanted a very visual way to show my neighbors that I was taking a stand. I decided to design and print yard signs and car magnets that read, "Hate has no home in Gig Harbor. We reject racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, sexism, homophobia and white supremacy." I printed extras and offered them to friends and neighbors. Spotting the signs around town and the car magnets on the road helps give me hope that the values we hold dear will remain steadfast in our small part of the world.

But small, everyday actions are likely more powerful than a public display on a yard sign or car magnet. Confronting white nationalist beliefs, speech and action head-on is the best way to assert that those values aren't welcome. Challenging those who believe that one race is more deserving or valued than another will be difficult but it is necessary. We all need to step up, speak out and stand tall to prove that white nationalism has no home here.

Meredith Browand is a mother and activist who lives in Purdy.

Letters to the Editor

About Lakebay Marina...

It is with great sadness that I announce the permanent closure of the Lakebay Marina Resort. In the near future, I will be posting No Trespassing signs on property, and boat launching will no longer be available.

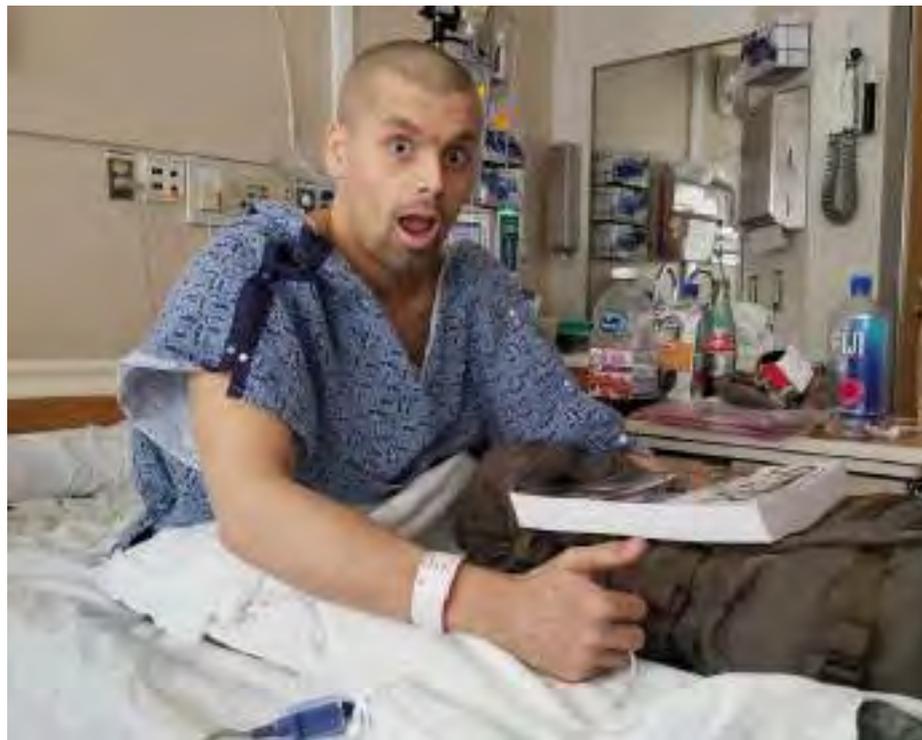
The seasonal nature of the marina, coupled with attempting to satisfy Pierce County Planning codes has taxed me to the limit both financially and emotionally.

When I began this adventure to revive and preserve a site with 135 years of historical importance to the Key Peninsula, I envisioned a place where the public could have free access. Access to enjoy the natural beauty, to explore the seashore, all while learning about the Mosquito Fleet. Campsites would be restored, boaters could visit for the day, the three remaining cabins would be rebuilt, and families could come without paying an entrance fee, buying a yearly pass or becoming a member.

Contact Councilman Derek Young if you don't want to see this only free public waterfront access facility morph into private waterfront homes.

In closing, I want to thank all the people who have supported me and who shared the same vision; without their help there wouldn't even be a marina.

Mark Scott/Lakebay



Recent amputee, Rigel (rhymes with Nigel), gives a thumbs up after surgery. *Photo: Renee Haxby*

KP Community Supports a Family in Need

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

When life throws a curve ball, it helps to live in a community like the Key Peninsula. So believes Renee Haxby, who has lived here for nearly a decade.

Her son Rigel (named for a star in the Orion constellation) Greenway was diagnosed with a slow-growing bone cancer, an osteosarcoma, in 2008 when he was 14. His treatment was surgery, a complex amputation and reconstruction of his left leg. The reconstruction became infected and over the next several years, he required additional surgery and intravenous antibiotics. The treatments impacted his education and although he attended Peninsula High, he did not complete his high school education.

But once the infection finally cleared, he declared his independence, going on what his mother called the "big adventure." He went to Eastern Washington, where he built fences and operated heavy equipment; he fished in Alaska and starred in three episodes of the TV show "Deadliest Catch." He returned to the Pacific Northwest in 2015.

The opinions expressed by writers are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on these pages and present these views for public information. Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.com.

Last spring, Rigel had increasing pain and testing showed that his osteosarcoma had recurred, this time in a more aggressive form. He underwent chemotherapy and in early November, his left leg was amputated. His mother said that he faced that challenge with strength and humor, making a video he titled "Hi from Mr. Stumpy."

Haxby is grateful for the support of the local community and for Rigel's high school friends, who have remained in touch and have been very supportive. Rigel has been unable to work and has moved back home. He'll get social security and is able to get medical coverage through his stepfather's plan. But they have needed furniture and weatherizing for his living space. Neighbors helped dig footings for walkways needed for wheelchair accessibility.

Haxby has raised funds online through GoFundMe and Facebook to help cover the costs of renovations not yet covered. And she is especially grateful to Toni Jacobson, who brought equipment from Angel Guild; to Susan Mendenhall from KP Cares; and to Ron Pierce, Jeff Barnaby and Jeremy Larcom and his workers, who helped dig the sidewalk for footings and new concrete.

Said Haxby, "This will be an ongoing journey. But after all, it is our challenges that mold us into who we become as individuals. I hope that Rigel will become a man who can help others get through difficult situations because he has already gone through it."



Longbranch Community Church

www.longbranchchurch.net

Come and join us Sunday mornings

Worship Service and
Children's Church 10:30
Adult Bible Study 9:00

16518 46th St KPS, Longbranch

253 884-9339

God's Blessing to You - Pastor John Day



Bussard celebrates at her birthday party. *Photo: Colleen Slater, KP News*

Marguerite Bussard Turns 90

Lifetime Longbranch resident Marguerite Bussard turned 90 in November, and celebrated with friends and family at the Longbranch Community Church.

Marguerite and Ramon (Pete) Bussard were the first couple married in the new Longbranch Community Church in 1948. They were given one of the first keys to the church, as Pete was resident electrician and Marguerite started the coffee on Sundays.

As fire department volunteers, when Pete attended meetings, Marguerite made coffee and tea, answered the phone and cleaned up. She later organized Ashes and served many years as president. Active in the VFW Auxiliary, Key Peninsula Veterans, Community House, she is a member of KP Historical Society, Bayshore Garden Club and Key Singers.

Bussard is well known as someone who quietly does what needs doing and knows how to make good coffee, too.

You are cordially invited to a special

Christmas Service

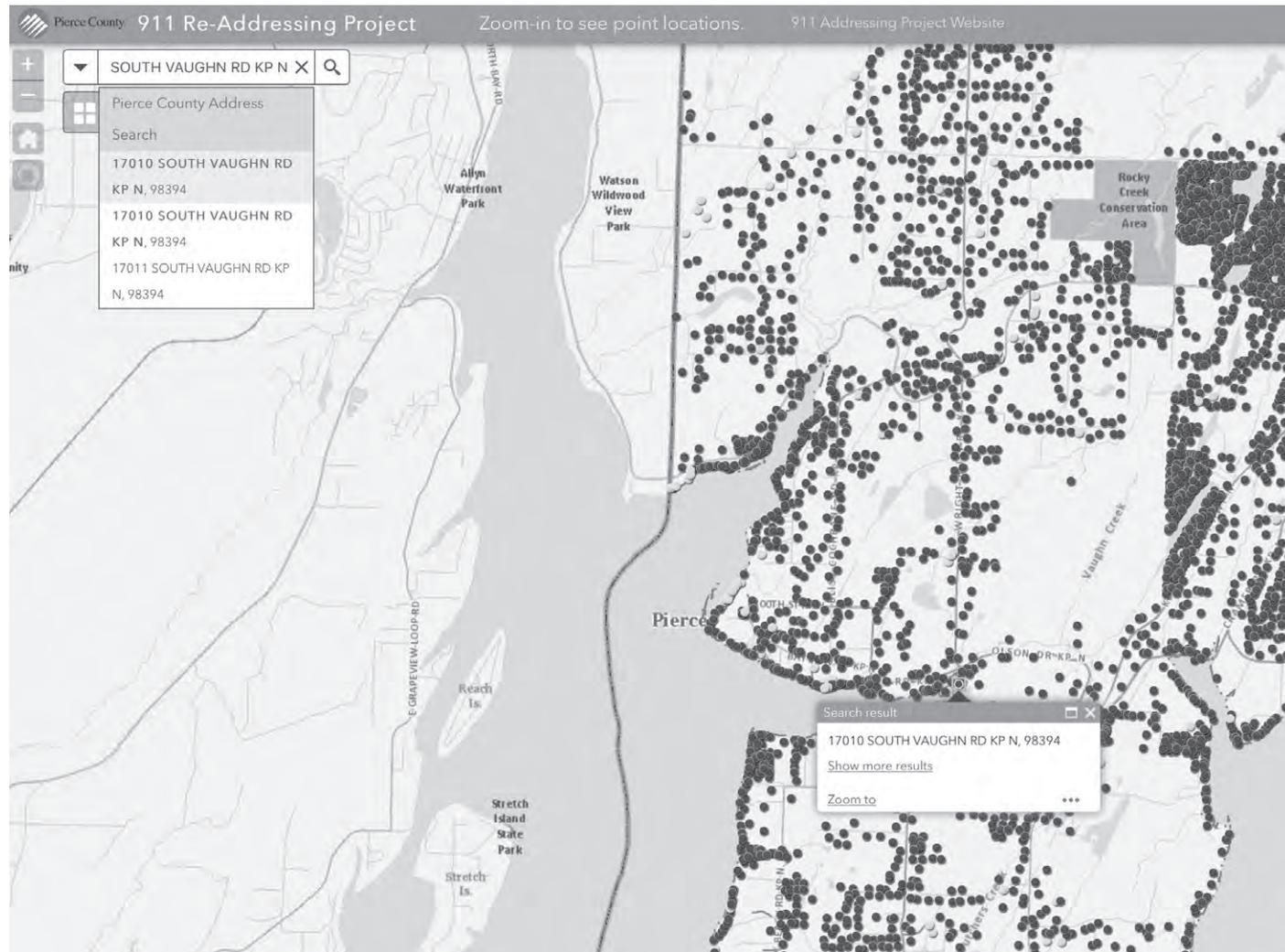
Sunday, December 17
9 am Breakfast
10:30 am
Special Music Worship Service

Christmas Eve Morning Service

Sunday, December 24
10:30-11:30 am

Key Peninsula Baptist Fellowship
at Key Peninsula Civic Center
17010 S. Vaughn Road KPN, Vaughn

Church: 253-353-2745
www.kpbfellowship.org
Pastor Thor Williams 253-495-4583

Visit www.piercecountywa.org/911addressing for interactive address map. Map courtesy: Pierce County

Parent and Child Swim Time

90° heated pool

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:30am-10:30pm
11:00am-12:00pm

Estimated monthly cost
1x weekly \$36
2x weekly \$72

Call 253.884.2722



Camp Stand By Me
17809 South Vaughn Road KPN
www.easterseals.com/washington

Address Changes for KP Residents Come with Benefits

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Blame it on the dark and stormy night of Nov. 13, but when a team of planners from Pierce County Planning and Land Use Services (PALS) hosted a community outreach meeting at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn to provide details on impending address changes for most homes and businesses on the Key Peninsula, nearly nobody came.

Official address change notifications, including the effective dates, will begin arriving in January. For most KP residents, only the directional suffix will change. Approximately 350 address will change to eliminate known problems in conjunction with the broader changes. “People don’t seem super concerned about it,” said Senior Planner Tiffany O’Dell, project manager for the addressing overhaul.

“We are well-prepared to help people understand how the changes will affect them. Our website includes an interactive map that allows property owners to enter their property address or parcel number to see what their new address will be,” O’Dell

said. “People should not begin using the new addresses until they receive official notice of their effective date.”

The KP News reported in July of 2016 that Pierce County planners were required to make sweeping changes to the address system on Key Peninsula, Fox Island and Anderson Island in order to be compliant with postal address standards required to implement Next Generation 911, an enhanced emergency response system designed to include technological advances in how people communicate.

For Key Peninsula residents, the changes mean an end to the atypical directionals at the end of street names. KPN will change to NW and KPS will become SW. The unusual three letters were originally intended to prevent errors, especially on the 23-mile-long KP where heading off in the wrong direction, north or south, in response to emergencies, had the potential to result in major delays. Changing to the cardinal directions or NW and SW are now required to greatly improve service via Next Generation 911.

The existing 911 infrastructure accepts voice-only calls. Once Next Generation 911 is in place, Pierce County residents will be able to contact 911 using voice or

text messaging and to send critical photos or videos that could help first responders understand complex or dangerous unfolding situations.

“The implications are astonishing. Imagine how this will improve the ability to call for help. The ability to discreetly call for help in difficult situations could be a real game changer for victims of violence both inside and outside the home,” said Battalion Chief Anne Nesbit, KPFD 16.

Kitsap County 911 launched text-to-911 in March 2015. “Overall it’s working very well. In 2015, we received 273 events reported via text and of those, 41 were true emergencies that could not have been reported otherwise,” said Maria Jameson-Owens, deputy director of Kitsap 911. “It’s especially helpful for hearing impaired individuals. Emergency calls are still best by telephone as text continues to be a little bit slower back and forth with 911 operators.”

Some Key Pen residents, like 13-year-old Brynn Smith of Lakebay, aren’t too keen on the idea of dropping the KP part of the addresses. “They can change the letters but it won’t stop us from being proud of living on the KP. We’re still who we are and nobody can change that,” she said.



Circa 1910 view of the west side of the Hall. *All photos this page courtesy Key Peninsula Historical Society*

Vaughn Library Hall Achieves Historic Landmark Status

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Pierce County Council members voted unanimously to add the Vaughn Library Hall to the official Register of Historic Places in Pierce county, to the cheers of seven hard-working members of the Key Peninsula Historical Society (KPHS) present at the meeting on Oct. 31.

The proposal to restore the library hall began in August 2015 when Donna Docken and her daughter, Nanc, approached the KPHS to ask where they might turn to save the aging building. Docken is a descendant of Harmon Van Slyke, who purchased the library hall from the Vaughn Library Association in 1958 and converted it for use as a private residence.

During Vaughn's early days, the hall was the center of life for the community. Construction of the library hall began in 1893 when walls and a roof were added to an open-air dance floor built in 1889 for a 4th of July celebration.

"Eager to help preserve the building,

several members of the KPHS went to work and presented the idea at the society's annual meeting in March 2016. The membership approved the acquisition of the property; KPHS volunteers committed to seeing it restored and preserved," said KPHS President Judy Mills.

After the building and site were appraised for tax purposes, a deal was signed whereby Donna Docken, and her late husband-Gary, donated the hall, along with a small triangular piece of property carved from the original homestead of the pioneering Van Slyke family.

The replacement of the hall's roof by Docken's brother, Jerry Wolnewiecz, during the time he lived in the building likely preserved its structural integrity. "Fortunately, the basic structure of the building was never altered," said Mills. When Harmon Van Slyke moved into the old hall in 1958, he never changed any walls. There was no need to re-create what was originally there, Mills said.

CONTINUED PAGE 11



KPHS volunteers spent hundreds of hours cleaning the building to prepare for restoration.



VAUGHN HALL FROM PAGE 12

By the time Docken approached the KPHS, the aging library hall had been subjected to vandalism and housed raccoons and bats instead of books or people, according to Mills. KPHS received a Ben B. Cheney Foundation grant to remove asbestos and bat guano, according to Mills. "I think we've spent practically every Tuesday since we acquired it cleaning," she said.

"KPHS board member Paul Michael was the project lead for getting it cleaned out and planning its future," said Mills. "New member Bart Wolfe, a retired architect from California, provided architectural drawings that were integral to the project and a big help with the KPHS application to Pierce County."

With the historic landmark registration in place, KPHS volunteers intend to continue restoring the building to its original appearance, with an emphasis on displaying its rich history. The landmark designation will help obtain grant funding to offset some of the cost of doing the preservation work to historical standards.

For more information on how you can help, visit the KPHS website at www.keypeninsulamuseum.org. Contributions of time and money are welcome.



Photo: Colleen Slater, KP News

NW Fuchsia Society Gathers on the KP

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Blooming fuchsias welcomed people outside and in as the Lakebay Fuchsia Society (LBFS) and Olympia Fuchsia Society hosted the Northwest Fuchsia Society (NWFS) at the KP Civic Center. Over 100 members and guests gathered to enjoy conversation, shopping, lunch and competitions.

NWFS consists of approximately 26 clubs extending from southern Canada south to California. It was formed in 1983 by Seattle clubs bothered by the restrictions of the American Fuchsia Society.

LBFS President Peggy Gablehouse said they host the gathering every seven years. The host group provides desserts, rolls and beverages. Visitors bring salads.

Barbara Rowland, LBFS treasurer, chaired the event with the theme "Color My World." The tables were done in purple, bright pink, yellow, blue and green with the accompanying plates, napkins and centerpiece wrappers color-coordinated. Ginnie Aardal, LBFS secretary, created centerpieces of cut fuchsias and greenery from her garden. Tammy Brown finished the tables with an encliantra (miniature fuchsia) for each guest.

The stage was decorated with fundraising items from various groups and a few vendors had tables of assorted gift items for purchase.

A photo contest requesting visitor voting garnered a trophy each for Jerry VanNoy and Betty Foster. Kim Wiley won two awards for the photo contest. All are LBFS members.

Sharon and Loyd Miller, who recently moved to Tacoma, joined the festivities. Sharon organized the Lakebay group in 1995 soon after they moved to the Key Peninsula. There are no charter members left, but "almost" charter members Ginnie Aardal, Frank and Myvanwy Shirley are still involved.

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the KPCC Whitmore Room. Visitors and new members are welcome. Dues are \$20 per person or \$25 for a married couple.



Bringing Magic to December

BRITTA BRONES, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

When our daughter was four, I wove her an Advent calendar with 24 pockets, to be filled with a note a day. On each note was a different fun activity to happen that day.

While a magical experience for our daughter, as parents there was the reality of the daily task, often forgotten until the last minute. After we had gone to bed, one of us would inevitably say, "Did you write the note?" When "no" was the answer, there was nothing to do but get of bed, down to our pre-cut pieces of paper and be inventive.

Sharing the task of note writing is easier, and you don't need a special calendar to bring magic to December. Perhaps you'll want to do this for the whole month and not just the 24 days of Advent. Here are instructions for you to enjoy something special this year, either with a family member or a friend, young or old.

First, decide on who gets what days to write notes.

Next, choose a place where the blank notes are to be kept and one where the written notes are to be found. Find Good Places and remember where they are! My adage as I get older: Beware of Good Places, they are hard to find.

The notes you write can be big or small, a few words or a short story on what to do. You can have fun with different pens, add little drawings or just use a pencil if that's more likely to get the note written.

At our house, on Christmas Eve morning, we expand the concept. The note in the obvious place says something like: Look under a chair in the kitchen and then on that note, under a vase and then under a book and then in the woodshed and then...until at the place to be the last, a little present is found. The number of Christmas Eve notes depends on the patience of the seeker and the ingenuity of the writer.

I have memories of writing, "Make a gingerbread house" several times during one December because we did not have the time or energy to make it on the first designated day. If you want to make a gingerbread house, kits or graham crackers are the easiest building materials, rather than cutting and baking the house pieces from scratch. Ambition is good but sometimes it prevents action.

Here are some ideas to make December a magical month. Remember; the easier and more fun the activity, the more likely it is to actually happen that day:

Put on a CD that invokes good memories while sipping hot cider. Watch a classic Christmas movie like Rudolph or Miracle on 34th Street, wrapped up in blankets. Make cookies. Light candles during breakfast and dinner. Pick branches of huckleberries and put in a vase. Take a long walk, come back, make/drink glögg or hot spiced wine and enjoy the warming feeling in your cold body. Read aloud a story or poem to one another. Go out together, stand in the dark and think of how light it will be at the same time in June. Light a fire outside on Winter Solstice evening, Dec. 21, and wish for good things in the year ahead. Make hot chocolate, and for adults, think about fortifying it with dark rum or whiskey. Give a hand/foot massage. Play a board game; loser has to cook a meal. Have breakfast for dinner. Draw stick figures of one another.

And when December comes to an end, bundle up the written notes in that envelope again and save them for next year, maybe to use the same ideas again. Just remember that Good Places are always hard to find.

Happy Holidays from
Katie, Stephanie & Anna



**Mondays
& Wednesdays
8:30 to 9:30 am
at the Civic Center**

NO YOGA DEC 25 or JAN 1

Bring your mat, blanket or towel
Drop-in \$12.50 / Four classes \$40
Cash or check, please



Julglögg—Sweden’s Traditional Spiced Wine

FROM THE KITCHEN OF BRITTA BRONES

- ½ cup raisins
 - ½ cup almonds
 - 5 pieces whole cardamom
 - 5 pieces whole cloves
 - 1 stick cinnamon
 - 1 knob fresh ginger
 - ¼ bottle vodka or unseasoned aquavit
 - 1 bottle red wine (Italian jug wine)
 - ½ bottle Madeira (Paul Masson or port)
 - ¼ cup sugar to taste
- Ground spices can be substituted*

That’s the original recipe from an old Swedish cookbook. I add ¼ cup (or to taste) of frozen orange juice concentrate instead of the sugar.

Instructions:

Rinse the raisins in hot water (I never bother). Blanch and peel the almonds. Put the raisins, almonds and all the spices in a large enough pot to hold all the ingredients. Pour the vodka over the spices and heat to just below boiling (if it boils, you lose the alcohol) and then keep at low heat for 10-15 minutes to let the spices absorb. Add

the wine, Madeira and orange juice. Bring the mixture to just below boiling and allow the mixture to cool and absorb the spices. It is best to prepare the day before consumption as the flavors will improve and the edge will be taken off the alcohol.

For a quicker method, start with heating the vodka and spices, then add the Madeira only for the second heating and then the wine and orange juice for a third heating, which gets much of the same effect. It does get better the longer it sits and with each heating.

For large gatherings or for making in preparation for the entire advent season, I will make a double batch, or more, and add raisins and almonds as necessary during the ensuing weeks. Advent coffee, goodies and glögg are consumed all four Sundays before Christmas. For festive gatherings where the pot will be visible, I take a whole thin-skinned orange, pierce it in many places with a knife point and insert whole cloves in the piercings. I use more cloves this way and eliminate the orange juice. On occasion, I have added

bitters if the mix was too sweet. I never use the sugar because, following tradition, we usually serve glögg with many kinds of Swedish cookies and saffron bread so the sugar intake is already over the top.

I have successfully made glögg without using the vodka (in that case use the Madeira in the first heating) in order to keep the alcohol content low; I have also used much less vodka, just enough to wet the spices and then let it boil so the alcohol dissipates. The vodka is the secret to pulling the flavors of the spices together much more quickly.

There are almost as many recipes for glögg in Sweden as there are old farmsteads and of those recipe, many are much higher in vodka content, while some use only wine.

Glögg (pronounced like “gluug”) is traditionally served in small cups with handles (think demitasse) with a small spoon to eat the almonds and raisins (beware the cardamom seeds) and is served very warm.

God Jul och gott Nytt År.

**NO
EL**

Join Us for a Christmas
“Sing Thing”

Sunday Dec 10 3:30pm
Hot Cider & Christmas Cookies

Christmas Eve Service
3:30 pm Sunday Dec. 24 (no morning service)



10:30 am Worship on Sunday
2406 McEwan Rd, Lakebay 253-857-7284
www.epcgrace.org Ed Longabaugh, Pastor

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



**Holiday
Bazaar**

**GIG HARBOR
EAGLES**

4425 Burnham Drive

December 2 & 3
Saturday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 9am to 4pm

To reserve a vendor table for \$25/day
call (928)287-5613 or (253)853-5874



Strengthening the Key Peninsula
Connecting the Community

YOUR DOLLAR GOES FURTHER THIS WINTER

From December 1st through the 22nd, when you take your car or truck to Glen Cove Repair for a **\$20 Winter Check Up** they will send your dollars to the Dr. Edward Worthen Eye Clinic to support patients in need.

Thank you for supporting our community, **Glen Cove Repair!**

Questions? See Glen Cove Repair's ad in this KP News issue or call 253-884-1838

Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community
www.kphealthycommunity.org
supported by the
Key Peninsula Community Council



Seasons Greetings
from Sunnycrest's New Owner

TIME TO "DECK THE HALLS" AND YOUR HOME...

Cedar Garland
\$1.25/foot
Fresh greens
in many varieties

Poinsettias
2, 4 in. & larger
Beautiful reds
and other colors

Holiday Floral
Now taking orders for
floral arrangements
for holiday entertaining

GIFT DELIVERIES TO THE CONTINENTAL U.S.

**Fresh, Fragrant Evergreen
Custom-made Wreaths**

Top quality mix of noble, pine and cedar. Special orders welcome. 24" boxed \$29.99 plus tax/shipping

**ADD BEAUTY TO YOUR LANDSCAPE
FOR YEARS TO COME**

**Big Selection of Live
Christmas Trees**

Pine, spruce, Noble firs and other evergreens

FRESH FLOWERS * SCENTED AND DECORATIVE CANDLES * CARDS

Gift Ideas for your Favorite Gardener

HAND TOOLS * GIFT CERTIFICATES * PLANTS WITH WINTER INTEREST

SELECT TREES, SHRUBS, NURSERY STOCK, GARDEN DÉCOR ITEM

Winter Clearance 60% Off Sale

Best selection now. Sale ends December 31.

OPEN WINTER HOURS

MON-SAT 9am-5pm

SUNDAY 11am to 4pm

9004-B KPN Highway

IN KEY CENTER

All Bank Cards Welcome

253 **884-3937**



www.sunnycrestnursery.com



AN INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT ON OFF-DUTY SCHOOL BUSES

KP SCHOOL BUS CONNECTS

FREE Community Transportation for All Ages

Under age 12 accompanied by an adult



Free Bus Service

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until December 14. Service resumes in January.

School buses aren't just for kids anymore.

KP Bus Connects Key Center, Lake Kathryn, Volunteer Park, KPCS/Food Bank, local stops, Peninsula High School and Purdy Park & Ride

Call **253-884-BUSS**

See complete schedule at www.kpcouncil.org/kp-school-bus-connects

A partnership with the KP Community Council, Puget Sound Educational School District and the Peninsula School District. See complete 2017 school year schedule at kp.council.org



KEYPENNEW.COM ONLINE CALENDAR

The online calendar is one of the most popular features at keypennews.com. You can display events in month, week, day or list format; search for specific events; and filter events by venue, organizer and more. You can also export events to the calendar app on your computer.

Submit your own event. If you have an event you would like to share with the community, we encourage you to submit it online. Use the Submit Event link in the sidebar on the website. We will add the event to the online calendar as soon as we review it. If you submit the event by the 15th of the month, it will also be included in the following month's print edition. **Need help?** There's a link on the left side of the page to Calendar Tips, or email questions to editor@keypennews.com or call 253-884-4699.

UPDATE YOUR 2018 LISTINGS NOW

DEC. 2

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS REVELRY

Free community event featuring music by the Bluegrass Minstrels. Donations will benefit The Mustard Seed Project's senior housing campaign. Lakebay Community Church, 6 to 8:30 p.m. 253-884-3899

DEC. 2 & 16

DEPRESSION & BI-POLAR SUPPORT

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:15 a.m. to noon at KP Lutheran Church. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com

DEC. 4 & 18

VETERANS MEET

The KP Veterans group meets 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church; membership is for veterans and military service members and families with children over 16 years old. 253-225-5130 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

DEC. 9

GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Decorate a gingerbread house at Key Center Library 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Register at www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar. 253-548-3309

HARP CONCERT

Friends of the Library presents its annual holiday concert with harpist Susan W. Haas 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 253-548-3309

DEC. 10

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Bring-your-own-voice, Christmas sing-along. Stay for cookies and hot cider. Sunday, 3:30 to 5 p.m., Grace Church, 2406 McEwan Road KPN, 253-857-7284 or www.epcgrace.org

CROCHET OR KNIT

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed and appreciated. Lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 253-884-9619

DEC. 13

KP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A special guest presentation will be given by Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer Mike Lonergan at the Key Center fire station, 7 to 9 p.m. 253-432-4948

DEC. 14

BOOK DISCUSSION

Friends of the Library book group will discuss "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Key Center Library. All are welcome. Ask for a copy at the help desk. 253-548-3309

DEC. 16

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

KP Alzheimer's Association caregiver support group monthly meeting 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Crandall Center, 9016 154th Avenue Court KPN. 253-820-2213

STEM SATURDAY

Explore basic principles of electricity for ages 3 to 8. Key Center Library, Rosina Vertz, 253-548-3511, piercecountylibrary.org

DEC. 17

BLUEGRASS GOSPEL JAM

Longbranch Community Church from 6 to 8:30 p.m. is for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided. 253-884-9339

KEY SINGERS CONCERT

The annual gift of Christmas music to the community at 3 p.m. in McColley Hall at KP Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road. Gift basket raffle, cabaret seating, light refreshments. Free admission. 253-884-5615

DEC. 18

LEGO MINDSTORMS

Build and program a robot using Lego Mindstorm kits from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ages 8 to 18. Register at www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar.

DEC. 24

WAYPOINT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Come to WayPoint as a part of your celebration this Christmas. Family friendly, one-hour services, 8 a.m., 5 and 8 p.m. 253-853-7878, www.waypoint-church.org

GRACE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Celebrate Christ's birth and join together in worship at Grace Church, corner of McEwan Rd and KPN, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (no morning worship this week) 253-857-7284, www.epcgrace.org

DEC. 29

LIFE-SIZED BOARD GAMES

Drop-in at the Key Center Library and play life-size board games from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All ages. 253-548-3309

OFF THE KEY

DEC. 5

SPORTS TRIVIA NIGHT

Play for prizes and bragging rights to celebrate the Washington State History Museum's upcoming exhibit on the Goodwill Games with the most intriguing, exciting and downright weird history of sports in Washington. Washington State History Museum, 253-272-3500. www.washingtonhistory.org

DEC. 5, 12, 19 & 26

TOBACCO-FREE SUPPORT

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. 253-223-7538

DEC. 6

DEMOCRATS MEET

26th Legislative District Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard.

DEC. 16

OLALLA CLUB CONCERT

Larry Murante will be playing at Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road SE, Olalla. Suggested donation is \$20. Potluck starts at 6 p.m.; concert starts at 7 p.m. www.olallahouse.org

WEEKLY EVENTS

WEEKDAYS

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Final 2017 session is Dec. 22. Participants must register with Marilyn Perks at 253-884-4440.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

PLAY TO LEARN

Play to Learn 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers age 5 and under and their adult caregivers. Final 2017 session is Dec. 22. 253-884-3456

TUESDAYS

SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS

Open forum class for beginners meets 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services. Walk-ins welcome. No class Dec. 26. 253-884-4440

SENIOR TAI CHI

Senior tai chi meets 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at KP Community Services. 253-884-4440

SENIOR SHOPPING

Seniors may grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Transportation provided. KP Community Services, 253-884-4440

STORY TIMES

Discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the Key Center Library. Music and motion story time (0-2 years old with an adult) at 10 a.m. and preschool story time at 11 a.m. 253-548-3309

BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible study 11 a.m. every week at Grace Church, 2406 McEwan Road KPN in Home. Bring a Bible and sack lunch. 253-884-4854

PNW CHILDREN SEW

Children's sewing classes taught near Purdy Spit for ages 6+. Each student will have a sewing machine and set of tools during class. \$15 per hour. Last 2017 class is Dec. 19. pnwchildrensew.blogspot.com or 253-255-9842

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME**

Children's Home Society, KP Family Resource Center preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Last 2017 session Dec. 14. Tami, 253-884-5433

WEDNESDAYS**READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS**

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors this free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate with the children, playing learning games, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Final 2017 session is Dec. 13. 253-884-5433

KP YOUTH COUNCIL

Meets every week 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the Key Center fire station. Final 2017 session is Dec. 20. Keypercouncil@gmail.com

LAKEBAY WRITERS

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours; hear others'. 1 to 4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Final 2017 session is Dec. 20. Loren, 253-884-2785

BLEND HOOKERS AND TINKERS

Does your fiber diet include skeins of yarn? Join in every week 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Blend Wine Shop for a rollicking good time. Bring projects to work on, questions, show-and-tell, or just hang out with a fabulous group of Key Penners. All skill levels and fiber interests welcome, but must be 21+ due to location. Final 2017 session is Dec. 20. Email hannah8ball@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**SENIOR MEALS**

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ are served at noon at KP Community Services; \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 253-884-4440

THURSDAYS**TOASTMASTERS**

Have fun improving your public speaking ability and leadership skills at the Key Center Library 8 to 9 a.m. 253-858-5761 or 253-548-3511

QUILTERS MEET

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the KC Library. This is an open group for quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop in. 253-548-3309

SENIORS LUNCH

The KP Senior Society meets at 11 a.m. for a potluck, games and fellowship in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 253-884-4981

FRIDAYS**SKATE NIGHT**

Skate Night at the KP Civic Center, 7 to 9 p.m. Final 2017 session is Dec. 15. Admission \$5. 253-884-3456

SATURDAYS**WRITERS GUILD**

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturday 10 a.m. to noon in the community council office, Suite D at the KC Corral. 253-884-6455

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Dec. 6 & 20, KP Lions, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. 253-853-2721

Dec. 8, Peninsula School District board, 6 p.m. call for location. 253-530-1000

Dec. 11, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m., Volunteer Park office. 253-884-9240

Dec. 12 & 26, KP Fire Commissioners, 5 p.m., Key Center fire station. keypeninsulafire.org or 253-884-2222

Dec. 13, Bayshore Garden Club, 11 a.m., fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 253-332-4883

Dec. 13, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. Guest speaker Pierce County Treasurer-Assessor Mike Lonergan. 253-432-4948

Dec. 14, Ashes support group for Fire District 16, 10:30 a.m., Key Center fire station. 253-884-3771

Dec. 14, KP Civic Center Assn. board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center. 253-884-3456

Dec. 18, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station. johnpatkelly@aol.com

Dec. 20, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting. 253-884-6022

Dec. 21, KP Citizens Against Crime, 7 p.m., Key Center fire station. kpcitizensagainstcrime@gmail.com

The Community Calendar is brought to you as a public service by the Angels.



Angel Guild Thrift Shop

Open 10-4 Tuesday to Saturday in the Key Center Corral

253 884-9333 Donations: Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30 P.O. Box 703, Vaughn WA 98394



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A gift subscription to the Key Peninsula News keeps friends and relations connected with what's happening here on the Key. Delivered by first-class mail every month for just \$30 for a whole year. Order at keypennews.com or mail to KPNews, PO Box 3, Vaughn WA 98394.



Marianne McColley and Toni Jacobson show off holiday treasures. *Photo: Colleen Slater, KP News*

A Day in the Life of Angels

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Editor's note: We sent two reporters to find out more about the volunteers that make up one of the Key Peninsula's perhaps best-loved charitable organization.

Angels Toni Jacobson and Marianne McColley report for duty at the Angel Guild in Key Center by 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays. They turn on lights, check that everything is where it should be and open the door at 10 a.m.

More Angels, who are sorters, arrive to work in the building out back, where donations are collected. Jacobson works as a sorter on Wednesdays, and so wears two Angel hats. She's been a volunteer for about 17 years, and started when the store was located in a smaller space next door.

McColley, who also started in the smaller store, came

about 12 years ago, and has always been a clerk. They've worked as a team for much of that time. Jacobson said about being an Angel, "It isn't really work. It's fun."

Floater volunteers who fetch and carry items between buildings and cross the street to the credit union for small cash or change when needed. Thursday morning doesn't have an assigned floater, but Sheree Bankson comes early for her afternoon shift when she can.

Asked why she enjoys her work there, McColley said, "The people we work with and the customers who come in."

New items are brought in every day. Some customers drop by almost every day and often find something to buy each visit. Customers are greeted, helped where needed,



Anne Larson at work. *Photo: Carolyn Wiley, KP News*



Inventory of donations. *Photo: Carolyn Wiley, KP News*

and the "regulars," Jacobson said, are sometimes gently chided if they leave without a purchase. All those who come in are sent off with a smile, a cheery comment or, "Come back again!"

No day is quite the same. "Thursday is not one of the busier days," McColley said. "Tuesday and Wednesday, more people come in, perhaps to check the new stock."

"Saturday is when working people come in," Jacobson said, "so it's a different group."

On-duty Angels often purchase items on their working days, before or after their shifts, but they may browse to see what's new and interesting if there are no customers needing attention. There is friendly camaraderie between

Angel members, whether working or shopping. “Imagine 50-plus women with different personalities all working well together,” Jacobson said.

Carla Parkhurst, store manager and the only paid Angel, checks through the inventory and decides when prices need changing or when a new color tag (for reduced prices) is timely.

Pearlita McColley and Linda Morin arrive and for a few minutes, there are more people behind the counter than in front of it. McColley, with her sister-in-law Marianne McColley, complete a transaction with a customer, comments and messages are exchanged, and the shift change is in place.

Marianne McColley commented on their interesting monthly business meetings when requests are reviewed and the proceeds from sales are allocated. “Someone presents a proposal that Key Peninsula Middle School needs \$1,200 for something. We vote, there are more proposals, and in 15 minutes, we’ve spent \$15,000!”

From April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, Angel Guild granted \$100,148 to 34 organizations, in amounts from \$500 to \$8,000.

Behind the Scenes with Two Angels

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

The usual schedule for these particular Angels—Ann Larson and Toni Jacobson—is sorting donations on Wednesday mornings. Ann Larson also works in the store on Saturday afternoons and substitutes for vacationing Angels. Since joining Angel Guild in 2000, Larson and Jacobson have worked together sorting through tons of donations and pricing items for sale in the Angel Guild Thrift Shop. After sharing this Wednesday morning ritual for approximately 120 weeks, they have established an easygoing friendship and consider themselves “companions in crime.”

The objective of Angels working behind the scenes is to maintain a two-week supply of merchandise to assure that the store is well stocked without overburdening the limited storage capacity.

Larson and Jacobson and the other sorting Angels work through each bag or box of donations, inspecting every item for flaws and shopper appeal. Items are then priced and put into the Angel Guild Thrift Shop merchandise stream or placed in the storage area for re-donation. The

impact of donations does not end at the door of the Angel Guild Thrift Store. Money earned through sales are donated back to nonprofit organizations in the Key Peninsula community and items that don’t make the “cut” are passed on to The Arc of Washington State. Twice a month, The Arc of Washington picks up unsold merchandise and other items that are not suitable for resale. The Arc is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the rights and full participation of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Visit The Arc website arcwa.org to find out more about this organization and its activities and to learn about the work that is supported through donations.

Decisions of the sorters are based upon probability of resale. Determinants for wearable clothing are “in or out of fashion” and “in or out of season.” Household items must be in working condition and there should not be a glut of identical items.

Once an item is deemed appropriate, it is priced and hung or boxed to be ready for display. Categories of items are grouped and forwarded to one of the “specialists” who usually work from home. Larson explained these “special” Angels check to assure that each item has customer appeal and a useful life.

One volunteer sorts games and puzzles, checking to be sure there are no missing pieces. Another sorts toys to be sure they are clean and in working order. Another sorts and organizes craft materials while another examines jewelry, and still another sorts and prices office and school supplies. When items come in that are deemed to have value for collectors, they are forwarded to the Angel who handles eBay listings.

The Angel Guild Thrift Shop is in KC Corral in Key Center, open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., donations accepted Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 3:30. Call 253-884-9333 or email angelguild9013@hotmail.com

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Local Teacher Draws Portraits to Help Raise Money for Hurricane Relief

When award-winning portrait artist and KPMS art teacher Chris Bronstad saw the devastation following Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas, he thought of a way he could help. Bronstad, who has family living in Houston, said, "I am passionate about helping since I can't be there in person."

Bronstad offered to do portrait drawings, which he typically sells for \$400 to \$1,000 at a reduced rate for school staff with a minimum donation to raise money for the Houston Independent School District Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief or OneAmericaAppeal.org for ongoing relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Teresa Smith, lifelong Key Peninsula resident and KPMS staffer, asked Bronstad to draw a portrait of her three children. This portrait of Brynn is the first—the remaining two will be added in separate sessions for a composite portrait of all three.

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Happy Holidays from Kip, Jen & Julie



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Check out www.facebook.com/KPCC.SkateNight

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

Happy Holidays from the 2018 Key Peninsula Civic Center Board

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In September, Angel Guild awarded grants to

- KP Middle School — AVID program..... \$1,200
- KP Middle School — field trip..... \$1,000
- KP Easter Seals..... \$1,500



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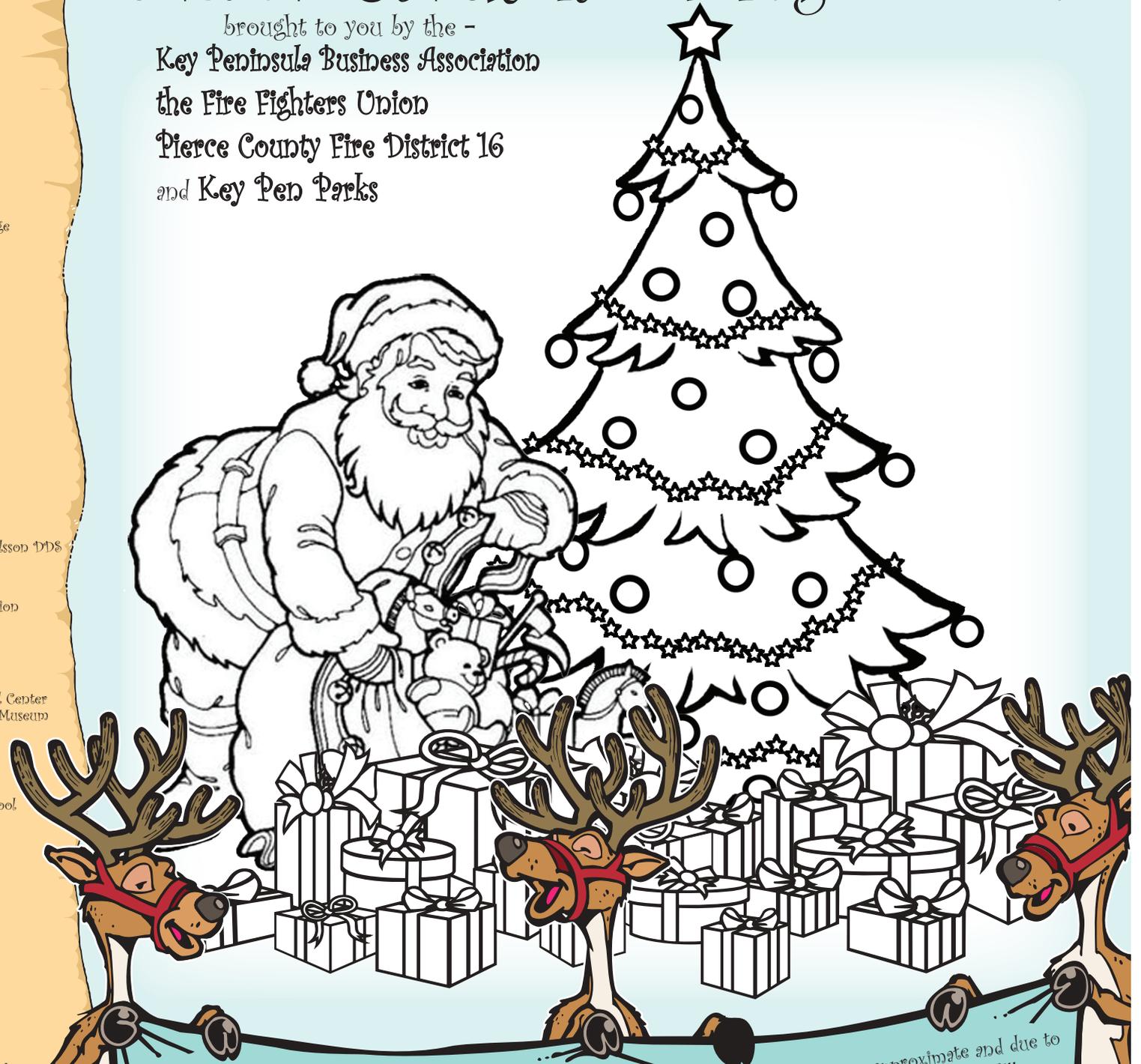


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**Due to Weather and Reindeer Games, exact times are not possible*

Sat, December 2 6th Annual Santa Breakfast at Key Center Fire Station 8:30am Pre-Register with Key Pen Parks Lake Minterwood - 5:30pmish	Wed, December 6 Greentree	Sun, December 10 Home - 5:45pmish Jackson Lake - 6:30pmish Joemma Beach Farms	Sat, December 16 Lake of the Woods Bel Ridge
Sun, December 3 Tree Lighting - Key Center (Busk) Wind and Tides Bel Mar Emerald Shores	Fri, December 8 Horseshoe Lake - 5:45pmish Creviston Heights - 6:45pmish	Mon, December 11 Taylor Bay - 6:00pmish	Sun, December 17 Lake Holiday
Sat, December 9 Palmer Lake - 5:45pmish	Fri, December 15 Skate Night at KP Civic Center Vaughn		





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Where in the world



Jenny Balman at Fort Campbellton on the island of Tobago in the Caribbean. The fort was established in 1777 as a British battery to protect the island from invaders.



Cort and Karen Montague enjoying the Key Peninsula News, January 2017, in Havana.

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Mustard Seed and Two Waters Collaborate on Senior Art Classes

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

This fall, The Mustard Seed Project (TMSP) and Two Waters Arts Alliance (TWAA) teamed up to help KP seniors explore new creative talents in a series of classes called “So You’ve Always Wanted to Try...”

The classes were intended to be friendly for newcomers and those experimenting with art for the first time. “We set up these classes for people who maybe had no experience, and have in fact ‘always wanted to try,’” said Mustard Seed’s Executive Director Edie Morgan. “It was intended for people who are not at a high level of experience, to give it a go and try something new and creative.”

The three separate classes focused on drawing, watercolor painting and mixed media, each with four weekly sessions. The series may expand to more topics in the future. “Drawing felt like a good basic, starting point, for a series especially. There are so many talented artists who teach out here,” said Morgan.

Despite fairly limited advertising, the classes were a big hit. “The first class filled up very, very quickly,” said Morgan. “Actually, the folks who were in the first class were so enthused about it, and having such a great time, that they were ready to sign up for the second round.” She attributes the popularity of the classes mostly to word-of-mouth. “There was definitely a core group that continued through, and they told their friends, and people added on.”

One of the major reasons classes like these are possible is that TMSP now has a place to hold them. Last February, TMSP moved into the former Roadhouse Restaurant building in Key Center, giving it a dedicated space for programs. “We’ve been painting, redecorating and moving things around. It’s become a very pleasant space,” said Morgan. “We’re having all kinds of different programs, events and now, classes in that space. We’re creating a gathering place that is comfortable and pleasant, and can be used for all kinds of different activities.”



Photo: Adria Hanson/TWAA

The Mustard Seed has been exploring new options for community programs since its move into the new building, but a grant from the Greater Gig Harbor Community Foundation and the partnership with Two Waters Arts Alliance allowed it to get the project off the ground sooner than expected. Artists willing to teach some of their skills were contacted through TWAA, and TMSP began advertising to the community.

After three courses with positive reviews, the project organizers are looking forward to what might be on the schedule for next year’s classes. “It’s our intent to continue classes and to offer a variety,” said Morgan. Exercise and dance classes have been considered as well as more art classes. Morgan also suggested the possibility of music courses, including a potential offering with the theme of “pull your guitar out of the closet and try again.”

“It makes everybody here feel good to have a group of excited people come through the front door, create art and build community,” said Morgan. “There’s great energy around it all; it’s very positive.”

More information about The Mustard Seed and any of its upcoming events can be found at themustardseedproject.org, at 253-884-9814, or at their Key Center office. This first series of classes cost \$25 for four 90-minute sessions, but pricing and scheduling for the future is still undetermined.



Watercolor class in action. Photo: Adria Hanson/TWAA

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TOP LEFT: A buck tries to board the Herron Island ferry at the island dock. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis, KP News* **TOP RIGHT:** The Key Peninsula Civic Center gym is filled with vendors and shoppers at the Nov. 11 Winter Warm-Up event. *Photo: Joseph Pentheroudakis, KP News* **TOP MIDDLE:** Lisa Mills directs the Vaughn Drum Corps during Winter Warm-Up. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **TOP LOWER:** KPMS Jazz Band with Santa, Tim Lorang, at Winter Warm-Up. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News* **LOWER LEFT:** The Marshall family of Lake Holiday and guests gather to carve their pumpkins before Halloween. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **LOWER RIGHT:** Local musicians Sheryl Clark, David McKibbon on guitar and Mark Hurwitz on piano play at the MarKee in Gig Harbor. Clark is a middle school music teacher in the district and a Peninsula High School graduate. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News.*