



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

February 2025

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 02

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

January Meeting Summary

By Mary Ulibarri



Doug Hoople opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. There were three folks with January birthdays in attendance: Jim Clayton, Melinda Stubbs and Bert Goldstein. Others on my list are Arlene Addington, Jim Bunt, and Eleanor Skinner. Two December birthdays missed due to no meeting: Helen Lowe and Millard Battles.



Carla Becker won a quilt in the drawing as well

as Melinda Stubbs. In fact, Melinda's name was selected several times, and she will donate two of the quilts to a worthy cause.

Jim Beasley announced that the speaker, Melissa Davis, Deputy Opinion Editor, The Seattle Times, had to cancel due to a health reason. We look forward to her attendance in the future.

It was announced the VFW facility will be closed for a couple of months due to being refurbished/upgraded. Dick was able to reserve space at the **Umpqua Bank in Renton**. The address is **333 S.W. 7th St.** – in the area of the Walmart off of Rainier Avenue. Parking is available at the rear of the bank, enter through the front door – see photo. Good job, Mr. Beham.

Doug held the door prize drawings and then presented the Bluebills 30th Anniversary cake to be served after the potluck lunch.



Bluebills 30th Anniversary Cake



Attendees gathered for a photo before renovation begins. Unfortunately, some left before we gathered together for the photo.

Presentation for February 28th General Meeting

By: Jim Beasley



Our Speaker for February will be [Melissa Davis](#), Seattle Times Editorial Board member. Her presentation will address Washington State Recycling Systems. Melissa was unable to attend our meeting in January to a family

emergency.

Melissa joined the editorial board after 17 years in The Seattle Times newsroom as a copy editor, arts editor and front-page editor/copy desk chief. She returned to the Northwest after six years in a Central California newsroom – a dry, citrus-filled break from many years at small Oregon dailies. A native Oregonian, she graduated from the University of Oregon School of Journalism.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday February 28th at our new location while the VFW Post 1263 is being renovated:



Umpqua Bank, 333 SW 7th St., Renton, WA

Bluebill Co-chair Don Hilt gave the love of his life, Phyllis to our Lord and Savior
January 14, 2025.



Memorial services will be Saturday February 15th at 11:00AM at:
Yahn & Son Funeral Home
55 W Valley Hwy S
Auburn, WA 98001



Securing today
and tomorrow

Submitted by: Micki Brown



Survivors Benefits Toolkit

The [*Social Security Survivors Benefits Toolkit – A Guide for Organizations*](#) increases awareness about benefits for survivors after the loss of a family member. This toolkit includes information about:

- Eligibility requirements;
- Types of evidence we need; and
- How to apply.

Government Imposter Scams

To learn about government imposter scams, check out our latest episode of [SSA Talks](#)!

In this episode, Rebecca Rose, Senior Public Affairs Specialist in SSA's Office of the Inspector General, discusses the tactics scammers use and where to report them. Recognizing the signs of a scam gives you the power to ignore criminals and report the scam.

This episode also features Kate Kleinert, a widow who lost \$39,000 to a romance scam.

Visit our [SSA Talks](#) page to listen to this and previous episodes.

News then History now

[Home](#) [U.S. History](#) Facts

Why Is the Dollar Symbol an “S”?

The dollar sign, or “\$,” is one of the most recognizable currency symbols in the world, instantly understood across languages and cultures. It also transcends currency, having become a widespread symbol in pop culture. Andy Warhol [made](#) a whole series of drawings and paintings of the dollar sign in the 1980s, while some modern artists have used the symbol in their own stylized names — think A\$AP Rocky, Travi\$ Scott, and Ke\$ha. It's also been used as a

symbol of greed — critics of large companies might make their point by introducing the dollar sign into the name of a corporation.

Despite the ubiquity of the dollar sign, its origins are surprisingly complex, muddled by a lack of historical record and competing theories. Far from a simple design, the dollar symbol represents a fascinating journey through economic history, global trade, and linguistic evolution.

Origin Theories

A number of theories exist regarding the origins of the dollar sign. Some have little supporting evidence, but are interesting nonetheless. For example, [one hypothesis](#) traces the symbol's roots to an image of the Pillars of Hercules that appeared on the Spanish coat of arms and national currency. The image showed the two pillars wrapped in S-shaped banners, which, according to the theory, could have evolved in notation to become the dollar sign.

Another, similar theory [argues that](#) the symbol came from the Potosí mint in Bolivia, which operated from 1573 to 1825. (The mine at Potosí was once the main source of silver for the Spanish Empire.) The mint used a stamp that featured the letters PTSI (for Potosí) imposed on top of each other, which could have created a symbol similar to the modern dollar sign.

Yet another [common theory](#) — and most likely a popular misconception — is that the symbol stands for “United States” and originated from the abbreviation “U.S.,” with the letters superimposed and the “U” becoming stylized over time. The writer and philosopher Ayn Rand seemingly believed this theory and chose to include it in a chapter of her 1957 novel *Atlas Shrugged*, in which one character asks another what the dollar sign stands for. But Rand, it seems, was wrong. The United States was known as the United Colonies of North America until 1776, and evidence exists that the dollar sign was in use before the United States moniker was born — making the theory seem tenuous at best.

What \$20 Could Buy You Through History

Imagine walking into a grocery store with \$20 in your pocket. What can you buy? Today, you might be able to grab some pasta and vegetables for the night's dinner and have leftovers for tomorrow's lunch, if you're lucky. The purchasing power of a dollar has changed dramatically from the early days of American history, largely due to the ever-increasing prices of the things we

spend money on — that pesky reality we call inflation. Twenty bucks might not put much in your grocery bag now, but in the mid-20th century, it could easily stock your pantry — or even cover a visit to the doctor. Here's what \$20 could comfortably buy you at different times in U.S. history.

Colonial Era

The colonial American economy primarily used a mix of British currency (pounds, shillings, and pence), Spanish dollars, and various forms of local currency. There was no unified economic system; the value of money and exchange rates varied among colonies, and historians [admit it's a challenge](#) to draw direct comparisons to modern prices. Using various [online converters](#), we can loosely estimate \$20 to be equivalent to about 100 shillings at the time. In the 1730s, 20 shillings could buy [50 acres](#) of land in Maryland or about [3 pounds of beef](#) in New England. In 1777, the same amount would outfit a man in a [full suit of broadcloth](#) in Rhode Island.



Of course, while it's fun to speculate, it's nearly impossible to determine with any certainty how much \$20 was worth in colonial America, as there was no standard national currency until the U.S. won independence at the end of the Revolutionary War.

BITS & PIECES

This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward to.

This is something that happened at an assisted living center. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.



An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

I'm sending this to my children so that they don't sell the house before they know all the facts.



Bluehills Heritage Chapter Meeting



February 28, 2025

Social: 10:00 AM

Meeting 10:30 - 11:30 AM



Speaker: Melissa Davis, *Seattle Times* Editorial Board
Subject: *How 'Commingled' recycling fails us.*



Come to the meeting, enjoy coffee, donuts, informative presentations, and socialize with other Boeing retirees.

**The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at Umpqua Bank
Renton, 333 SW 7th St., Renton, WA**

Parking is available behind the Bank and entry through the main entrance.

Calendar of Events 2025 **In Person Meetings**

<i>Jan 31</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Jul 25</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Feb 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Aug 29</i>	<i>Chapter Picnic/Potluck</i>
<i>Mar 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Sept 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Apr 25</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Oct 31</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>May 30</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Nov 21</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jun 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>	<i>Chapter Holiday Potluck</i>

**Don't Forget to
Report Your Hours!**

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