



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

February 2023

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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Chairman's Comments

By Richard Vaughn

Please take a little time this month to call a friend or member and invite them to our group the last Friday of February and if you have not attended please join us we would love to have more attendees and see you .

Thanks. Hope to see you there.

Richard



Presentation for - February 24th General Meeting

By Jim Beasley

Our presenter for the Bluebills Chapter meeting in February will be Kathy Drewel from the Sound Transit Public Information Office.

It is becoming very difficult getting quality speakers for our monthly meetings when we have such a small audience. Please make every effort to attend the once a month gatherings. It's also an opportunity to socialize with your fellow Bluebills.

Jim

PS: Suggestions are always welcome.

Have you reported your hours?

Remember: You can report any volunteer hours!

Not just hour your work for BLUEBILLS. Church, School, Community , Organization - all of these hours count too !

Send reports to Mary Ulibarri marybarri20@gmail.com or Dick Beham at bbbeditor@live.com.



January Meeting Summary

By: Mary Ulibarri

Don Hilt opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were two attending members with January birthdays – Jim Clayton and Melinda Stubbs and two others on my list - Phyllis Hilt and Eleanor Skinner.

Thanks to those turning in volunteer hours to me at marybarri20@gmail.com or Dick Beham at bbbeditor@live.com.

Doug Hoople shared with us that he talked with Jim Orchekowsky recently, who moved to the mid-West a few years back. He is doing well, shoveling snow and hanging out with his high school buddies. He sends his regards to all.

Richard spoke again about our difficulties with Boeing support, or lack thereof. Things are still up in the air due to the changes in administrative responsibilities. We're still alive, but no website. Everyone is encouraged to spread the word and we'd love to have more members at the meetings.

Jim Beasley then introduced the speaker, Bruce Carlson, Associate State Director for Communications, AARP Washington State Office, who used an excellent visual slide show.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. Their mission is to empower people to choose how they live as they age.

The AARP Foundation works to end senior poverty by helping vulnerable older adults build economic opportunity and social connectedness. As AARP's charitable affiliate, they serve AARP members and nonmembers alike. Bolstered by vigorous legal advocacy, they spark bold, innovative solutions that foster resilience, strengthen communities and restore hope.

AARP Services is a wholly owned taxable subsidiary of AARP and provides quality control on behalf of AARP for AARP-branded products. Through the branded products of their service providers, they make available new and better choices to the members. Among these are health and financial products, travel and leisure offerings, and life event services. AARP Services is where AARP's mission meets the marketplace.

Enhancing the quality of life for all as we age—not just serving the nearly 38 million members—is AARP's mission. At its heart, the work that AARP and its affiliates do can be summed up in just 12 words: “We fight for and equip each individual to live their best life.” It's all about real possibilities.





AARP Founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus

Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, a retired high school principal, founded AARP in 1958. AARP evolved from the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA), which Dr. Andrus had established in 1947 to promote her philosophy of productive aging, and in response to the need of retired teachers for health insurance.

At that time, private health insurance was virtually unavailable to older Americans; in fact, it was not until 1965 that the government enacted Medicare, which provides health benefits to persons over age 65. Dr. Andrus approached dozens of insurance companies until she found one willing to take the risk of insuring older persons. She then developed other benefits and programs, including a discount mail order pharmacy service.

Over the years NRTA heard from thousands of others who wanted to know how they could obtain insurance and other NRTA benefits without being retired teachers. After ten years, Dr. Andrus realized the time had come to create a new organization open to all Americans. Today, NRTA is a division within AARP.

In 1963, Dr. Andrus established an international presence for AARP by founding the Association of Retired Persons International (ARPI), with offices in Lausanne, Switzerland, and Washington, D.C. While ARPI disbanded in 1969, AARP has continued to develop networks and form coalitions within the worldwide aging community, promoting the well-being of older persons internationally through advocacy, education and service.

Since its inception in 1958, AARP has grown and changed dramatically in response to societal changes, while remaining true to its founding principles:

- To promote independence, dignity and purpose for older persons
- To enhance the quality of life for older persons

- To encourage older people "To serve, not to be served"

Input from AARP's diverse membership shapes everything they do as an organization. Feedback comes from surveys, public opinion polls, phone calls, emails, social media, face-to-face conversations with volunteer leaders and staff, letters to the editors of their publications and more. Members' views shape the decisions about everything from advocacy positions to volunteer opportunities to new online health tools.

AARP is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all as we age. AARP leads positive social change and delivers value to members through advocacy, service, and information to make things better for society and play a positive role in communities of all kinds. AARP's public policies serve as the foundation of their work to fight for people 50+ and help them choose how they live and age.

The process for developing their public policy is overseen by AARP's Board of Directors to ensure commitment to the organization's mission and purpose. It includes extensive input and analysis of the views of AARP members and other people age 50 and older throughout the nation, as well as studying policy options to develop innovative and thoughtful solutions that address the needs of the 50+ population. AARP staff and volunteers, as well as internal and external policy experts from a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives, contribute to the formulation of AARP's policy.

Every two years, AARP publishes its Policy Book to inform people where they stand.

AARP and AARP Services regularly seek input from members; they also conduct research to identify which products and services would be of most value. AARP Services is responsible for looking into possible new offerings, performing quality control with regard to providers and monitoring the satisfaction of members who use AARP-branded products and services.

Products, services and discount benefits are managed with four key principles in mind:

- Affordability — AARP-branded products are not necessarily the least expensive, but they offer recognizable value at a competitive price thanks to responsible product design and efficient operations.
- Quality — Through AARP Services, AARP makes sure its branded products and services consistently meet high standards of quality for members.
- Simplicity — AARP-branded offerings deliver information about features, benefits and regulations that members can easily understand and take advantage of.
- Accessibility — AARP looks for products with the broadest geographic distribution and broad acceptance policies so they benefit as many 50+ Americans as possible.

AARP Products and Services

Health Includes insurance plans, prescription drug discounts, eyewear, hearing aids and other health items.

Financial Offerings such as auto and home insurance, annuities and life insurance, credit cards and financial guidance.

Travel Includes savings on rental cars, vacation packages, tours, cruises, hotels and

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roadside assistance.

Bruce then opened the floor to questions from the audience.

Don then held the door prize drawings and the meeting was adjourned.

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER



Connections for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

East Side Stories

The Eastside's Gallop'n Gerties

By: Margaret Laliberte, Eastside Heritage Center Volunteer

*Gerties around table at lunch
in their clubroom (2000.015)*

Mid-twentieth century America is commonly known as the era of the automobile. On Seattle's Eastside growth exploded thanks to the Lake Washington Floating Bridge, which opened in 1940. But the area was also known as a fine area for enjoying life with a horse. According to one source, at one time there may have been approximately 3,500 horses in the Greater Bellevue area. In the early 1930s a portion of public lands between Bellevue and Kirkland was designated for the use of local horse riders (and eventually became Bridle Trails State Park). The Lake Washington Saddle Club was founded in 1945. North of downtown Bellevue the community of Diamond S was developed for families with horses. On 15 acres on Clyde Hill A. Draper and Lida Coale raised show horses from 1950 to the early 1980s. A few months after Clyde Hill incorporated as a 4th class municipality in 1953, the Coales's Tarry-Longer stable hosted a horse show to raise money for the new city's empty coffers. As the headline of an article about the Eastside in the Seattle Sunday Times in 1951 declared, "Days of Dobbin Are Not Done."



The Gertie's original drill team, complete with groups' pennant at left, probably on 104th Ave NE in Bellevue (2000.015)

Certainly, one of the most colorful—and long enduring—groups of Eastside horsewomen (as they were then known) were the Gallop'n Gerties. An offshoot of the Lake Washington Saddle Club, the Gerties gleefully resisted formal organization over the years. Without bylaws, officers

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or dues, one member said simply there was “no club anywhere more loose-jointed and such fun.” Though many members lived in the Bridle Trails area, one came from Mercer Island and another rode north from Wilburton Hill. For years a third member who lived on Clyde Hill taught local kids to ride. When one of her horses, Tony, died, he had been so beloved in the community that the Bellevue American newspaper gave him a two-column obituary.

The group gathered every Thursday morning for a ride, followed by lunch hosted by one person of the group. Eventually they got a clubroom—the “Tack Room” -- in member Mel O’Farrell’s barn. There was always a Christmas party to which spouses were invited, and the group’s drill team participated in Eastside summer events. They were part of Bellevue’s Seafair Parade in 1951, where the girls (as the news reporter called them) “exhibited fancy drills and wheeled their mounts along the parade route.” Members participated individually and as a group in the Saddle Club’s gymkhanas.



Gerties on summer pack trip on Pacific Crest Trail, 1968 (2000.015)

The three-day trail ride was a high spot of many summers. Over the years the group rode up the Teanaway River near Cle Elum; in the Methow Valley; the Capitol Forest near Olympia; and along the Pacific Crest Trail from Deep Creek to White Pass.



The Gerties maintained a robust membership of about 25 women over several decades, The hostess roster for 1980 listed 22 different lunch hostesses over the year. Inevitably though, the group’s scrapbook began to include obituaries along with the celebrations. But as recently as 1998 there were still ten Gerties living in the Bridle Trails area, and four or five of them met on Thursdays, if no longer to ride still to enjoy each other’s company and recall their years in the saddle together.

Eastside Stories continued on page 8



News from the Social Security Administration

Submitted by: Micki Brown

Our New Website Improves The Customer Experience.

We redesigned our website to help you access our online services. You can now access *my Social Security* through more pages!

More improvements are on the way. [Take a look!](#)

Busy B's

By Sibyl Fletcher

A change at Busy Bees!

After TEN years at the helm, Janice Hawes has stepped down as chairperson. For ten years, she has been our fearless leader, shepherding the acquisition of donations and supplies, maintaining machines, interfacing with Bluebills and charitable organizations, tracking hours, and holding the "checkbook".

Janice will be working remotely now. At home, she will make medical dolls and small quilts for the small people at Children's Hospital.

The other Busy Bees will endeavor to fill Janice's shoes. It will take three of us!

We will all continue to sew for various charities. Lisa Nyreen will be the liaison to Boeing (interfacing with the Vaughns). Sibyl Fletcher will track donations (both supplies and finances) and will turn in the Busy Bees' volunteer hours. Melinda Stubbs will help with the newsletter articles and wherever else she can fill a need.

THANK YOU, Janice, for a long and successful tenure!

Bits & Pieces

Those Wonderful Church Bulletins!

- **“The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals”**
- **“Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.”**
- **“a bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow”**
- **“Weight Watchers will meet at 7PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.”**
- **Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.**
- **“The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.”**

East Side Stories (cont.)

W.E. Le Huquet, Early Bellevue Booster

By: Margaret Laliberte, Eastside Heritage Center Volunteer

William Eugene Le Huquet may be best known as the editor and publisher of *The Reflector*, the Bellevue area's early newspaper published between 1918 and 1934. But he was so much more than that as a tireless promoter of Bellevue, its merchants, schools, and community organizations. The initial masthead of the *Reflector* provided a clue to his agenda: "Non-partisan, Non-sectarian, Neutral [he later added "Non-individualistic"] A Medium for the Exchange of Ideas relative to local improvement."



Although Le Huquet's overarching goal was to create a vibrant community --"The greatest need of Reflector Territory is cooperation and you know it." -- he could hardly be considered individualistic or neutral. He was passionate, creative, ebullient—and, on occasion, plain cantankerous. Editions of the *Reflector* illustrated all of those traits as he tirelessly exhorted readers to support local businesses, join the myriad clubs and organizations that proliferated during the Twenties and Thirties, support such local issues as the public ferry system, fire protection, and local school district, and vote, vote, vote. "Individual patriotism to local endeavors should be our first consideration."

W. E. Le Huquet in front of the family home at 9616 NE 5th St. (1998BHS.16.05)

From the outset, the *Reflector* was a family affair, and Le Huquet invited his readers to watch and participate. January 1, 1919, his eldest child, Sylvia, made her appearance as a typesetter—at age six. "She is learning to set type to help her daddy. She set up the poem on the front page...Sylvia wishes to become an Editorette." Over the years, as the eight remaining Le Huquet children were deemed old enough, they all joined the paper's staff. When twins were born in December 1919, Le Huquet invited his readers to send in suggestions for the babies' names. But just a month later he had to announce that one twin, the boy, had not survived. "Our Little Editor was born December 17th 1919 and died January 17, 1920. "

Le Huquet concocted intriguing ways to boost newspaper subscriptions. In 1920 he announced the Better *Reflector* Contest. Subscribers were invited to mail in their criticisms and discovery of errors. He awarded five points for misspellings; 10 for both unintentional grammar errors and "worthy suggestions." One-half point was awarded for each cent of new advertising and 100 points for a new subscription. The winner could choose one of two First Prizes: \$25 in cash or a \$40 first payment on a \$350 lot in the new Lochleven subdivision on Meydenbauer Bay. (Mrs. H. Anderson won first prize and elected to take the payment on the lot.) To promote both the paper and local clubs and organizations, he agreed to split the proceeds when subscriptions were submitted in a group from a club.

With nine children ultimately attending local schools, Le Huquet pushed for the development of the local school district. He had vigorously supported a school bond measure in 1920

and helped it pass with a 3.5-to-1 margin, after it had been defeated 2-to-1 in 1916. He ran for the local school board twice, was elected once and then defeated in 1927. He firmly believed that a healthy, growing school system meant a growing business district as well.

Le Huquet served as the first Secretary of the Bellevue District Development Club when it was founded in 1922. For years he screened movies for the community on Wednesday and Friday evenings at the Bellevue Clubhouse on today's 100th Ave. N.E. (site of the Boys' and Girls' Club). But it was not always smooth sailing. In 1927 "Because the children attending the Bellevue Clubhouse movies do not appreciate the admission price of 10c by being quiet during the performance, the price has been raised to 15c on Wednesdays. For the present the price on Fridays will be 10c. The next move will be to omit children's prices altogether or admit only those accompanied by parents or guardians." The unfortunate upshot of this kerfuffle was that the following month the Bellevue District Development Club decided to cancel its sponsorship of the moving pictures program.

USE

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G. Lauche, Midlakes	Baker & Marr
Medina Grocery	Kirkland Cash Market, Kirkland
Red & White Store, Kirkland	OR
	Phone Lakeside Five

Extracts are made To flavor food, And what we eat, Should be most good

This little label Stands for worth, It represents The best on earth.

Delicious flavors Flower, fruit, spices Best in all-ways, Best in Prices.

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RELIABLE
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PURE EXTRACT
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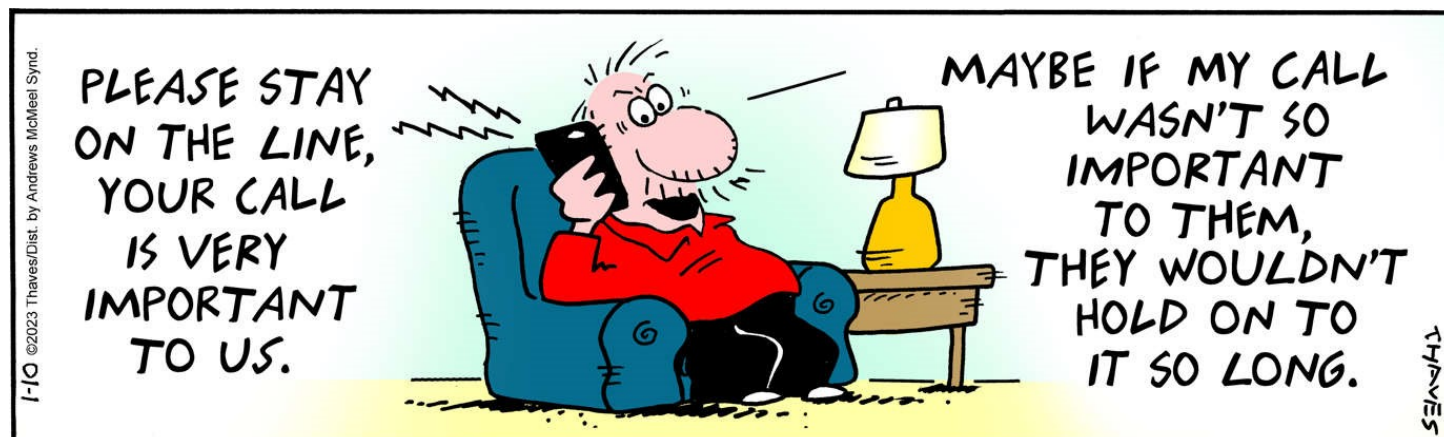
MADE IN WASHINGTON

PHONE
W.E. LEHUQUET
BELLEVUE, WASH.

Somehow Le Huquet found the time and energy to run a second local business: he produced a variety of flavoring extracts under the Le Huquet label. They were sold in local groceries from Wilburton to Kirkland and in a few locations in Seattle.

Le Huquet Flavoring Extracts Advertisement, The Reflector, October 6, 1932

W.E. Le Huquet left Bellevue sometime after 1930 and moved to New Jersey, but his family remained and his wife Lilian continued to publish the Reflector. By 1933 Sylvia had become Assistant Manager, Gloria was Chief Compositor, and the rest of the clan were listed as Assistants. But in 1934 the newspaper ceased publication. By then Bellevue had a second newspaper, the Bellevue American, and the Eastside Journal was published in Kirkland. The Reflector, "circulating in The Heart of the Charmed Land" with a family of 2500 Readers in Seattle's Superb Suburbs," quietly passed from the scene.



Calendar of Events 2023

In Person Meetings

<i>Jan 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Feb 24</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Mar 31</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Apr 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>May 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jun 30</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jul 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Aug 25</i>	<i>Chapter In-Door Picnic</i>
<i>Sept 29</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Oct 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Nov 17</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>Chapter Holiday Potluck</i>

Food Bank Schedule For 2023

Cash donations collected at each monthly meeting to be given to a different food bank each month.

<i>January</i>	<i>Highline</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Bellevue</i>	<i>Doug Hoople</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Federal Way</i>	<i>Lonnie Stevenson</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Maple Valley</i>	<i>Vaughn's</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Melinda Stubbs</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Auburn</i>	<i>Martha Battles</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>West Seattle</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Tacoma</i>	<i>(open}</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Renton</i>	<i>Eleanor Skinner</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>White Center</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Des Moines</i>	<i>Lonnie Stevenson</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Issaquah</i>	<i>Eleanor Skinner</i>

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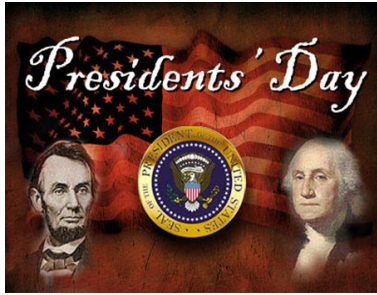
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**Don't Forget to
Report Your Hours!**

Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



February 24, 2023
Social 10:00AM, Meeting
10:30 - 11:30 AM

Happy Valentine's Day

Speaker: Kathy Drewel, *Sound Transit Public Information Office*

(Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.)

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

Bluebills Monthly Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Name _____

Phone Number _____

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

Please send completed hours form to Bluebills, PO Box 3707 1K-B02, Seattle, WA 98124
Email to bluebills@boeing.com or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting