



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

March 2024

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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Past Co-Chairman's Comments

By Doug Hoople

Well, here I am again. Richard is still feeling he could use a little rest and have someone else write some comments from the Chairman.

So how many of you took my advice last month, when I wrote: "How about inviting your Boeing friends and neighbors down to Renton." Don't know if that really worked, saw a few wives and one other new face. We did have a few more people. So, let's try it again. Or as YODA says: "Do or Don't Do, there is no Try." So do it, invite a friend, be a Jedi.

Those of you who didn't attend this February meeting missed a good informational program from the Seattle Public Library. Now most of us are out in the King County Library system, but they do link services and reference materials. Cheryl used to overwork those reference people with requests for books and reference materials from all over the state. The library even has a whole floor dedicated to genealogy. So, there is a place for you to find your roots for free instead of paying for an app on your computer. See what we learned!

And you'd better not miss next month's meeting. We're having a speaker from our local PBS station. I wish I wasn't on my way to Texas. I want to be at this meeting. Do you all remember when we used to go do "Pledge Nights" at PBS in Seattle. Boeing did that for many years, back in the good old days. They still look for pledges but no longer have the phone banks of people.

I will miss the meeting because I'll be driving to the centerline of the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse at the Texas Total Solar Eclipse Star Party for the April 8th event. I made friends with the head of the Star Party and he is asking his volunteer crew to come and set up the site. (Helps to have friends in important places. Guarantees my ability to attend, instead of hoping to be picked in a lottery system.) I will also be taking some time to tour Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Missouri landmarks, historic sites, National Parks, and museums on the way back.

So, see you all in May and as Roy Rodgers used to say, "Happy Trails to you till we meet again."



Speakers and Presentations

Jim Beasley, Speaker Coordinator

The precentor for Friday March 29th general meeting will be Katherine Edwards from KCTS-9. KCTS 9 is a service of [Cascade Public Media](#), a group of media organizations committed to helping the Northwest learn, grow and make a difference.

KCTS-9 began broadcasting in 1954 and became a part of Cascade Public Media (CPM) in 2018. Katherine's presentation will address CPM's extensive reach to community, streaming and future plans.

February Meeting Summary



By: Mary Ulibarri



Doug Hoople opened the meeting on schedule asking for members with February birthdays. There were none in attendance, but my list shows Tom Moberg, Mavis LaBounty, Micki Brown, Roy Barnes and Mike Holman. Norma announced she and Richard celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

It was noted again that the attendance is nowhere near the number of members we used to have before COVID. We agreed it would be wonderful if any and all of the missing Bluebills returned to the monthly meetings. We miss you. And it would help Jim Beasley get speakers to join us. Many are not inclined to share their knowledge and experiences with the Bluebills due to the lack of attendance at the meeting. Please consider joining the gang once again.

And again.... Members are reminded to turn in volunteer hours to marybarri20@gmail.com or Dick Beham at bbbeditor@live.com.

Doug then turned over the meeting to Jim who introduced Emily Billow, Older Adult Program Manager, Seattle Public Library. Emily graduated from Montana State University with a BS majoring in Community Health and a minor in Human Development, plus a certificate in Gerontology.

In her role at the Seattle Public Library, she helps shape older adult programs and services. She works with community partners and library staff to ensure the library serves older adults in the most inclusive way possible.

With the help of a visual presentation, here are some major points of Emily's talk.

History and Fun Facts

The Seattle Public Library became a part of the city of Seattle in 1890. They have 27 physical locations and offer a variety of other options through the Mobile Services.

Locations

Central Library – The newest Central Library in Seattle opened in 2004. There were two other Central Library buildings before (1906, 1960) all in the same location.

The current 11-floor building contains an innovative “Books Spiral,” a 275-seat auditorium and open spaces where patrons can meet, study, search the web or read.



The library has centers for children, teens and adult readers, along with expanded collections and a large computer lab. It also has underground parking for about 143 vehicles. It currently has approximately 1.5 million books and materials.

Rainier Beach Library – This Library first opened a deposit station at the Montera Pharmacy in 1912. The pharmacy was destroyed by fire in 1917 and the library lost 433 volumes. In 1921 the library re-established a deposit station at the Rainier Beach Dry Goods store, but that closed

in 1924.

In 1928 the Rainier Beach Community Club, the Emerson School PTA and the Rainier Beach Women's Club persuaded the library to open a part-time station in a storefront rented for \$20 a month. The Rainier Beach Station open in 1928, but during the Great Depression it closed in January 1932.

On 1966, the Library opened a branch in a leased storefront. In 1973 the branch moved to another leased spot, a former bank building. In February 1981 the branch moved into a permanent facility at its current location. The building was upgraded in 1986 and again in 2004.

The following are a number of the library's available services.

Programs and Services

- Informational Programming and Events
- Mobile Services
- Library of Business services
- Author and Book Programs
- Arts and Museum Passes
- Technology
- Adult Education Classes
- Assistive Technology
- Books and Media

Older Adult Programming

- Aging in Place and Retirement
- Creative Aging
- Dementia Friendly Libraries
- Healthy Aging
- Employment and Entrepreneurship

Mobile Services

- Books by mail
- Bookmobile

To become a Mobile borrower or to ask any questions, call Quick Information at 206-386-4636, email bookmobile@spl.org, or stop by the library.

Arts and Museum Passes

Some available services:

- Arts Program
- Museum passes
- Genealogy

Technology

- Online learning
- Internet Access

Adult Education Classes

- Adult Education Classes
- Citizenship Classes
- English Language Classes
- Computer Classes

Assistive Technology

- Technology that can support low vision, blind, hard of hearing and deaf patrons.
- Low Vision Book Group meets every second Tuesday of the month.

Gold Cards

- Available at multiple locations and online – Seattle.gov/agefriendlydiscounts
- 77 different discounts, such as the Seattle Aquarium, Woodland Park Zoo, and Seattle Animal Shelter.

Library Cards

If you don't have a library card or if you have lost yours, you can get one at:

- www.spl.org
- Go to your local branch

Emily concluded her excellent presentation by answering many interesting questions from the audience. I believe the group was very impressed with all of the services provided by the Seattle Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned following the door prize drawing.

Help Continue Quality Monthly Presentations

Highlighted in our January 2024 Newsletter were some of the excellent presentations in 2023. We are fortunate that Jim has been able to continue obtaining quality speakers thus far this year. BUT...As noted in this and other monthly newsletters, it is becoming more difficult to obtain speakers for our monthly meetings due to low attendance. Presenters want to know our attendance before agreeing to commit.

Let's help with this effort by attending regularly each month and invite a friend or fellow retiree to join you as well. As an added bonus there is coffee and donuts and it is always enjoyable to swap stories and share experiences with others.

Carmel (Shaver) Camerini

Oct. 19, 1938 - Dec. 11, 2023



Carmel passed away from lung cancer and had been fighting hard against polymyositis since March 2023. Born in Seattle, her family also lived in Yakima, Green Acres and Skykomish before moving back to Seattle. She graduated from Holy Names Academy (1956) and had a career at Boeing (mid 60s to mid 90s). She lived the majority of her adult life in Renton.

A busy woman, Carmel enjoyed roller skating, skiing, dancing, bowling, golfing, knitting, and Husky football as well as volunteering for Boeing Bluebills, Boeing Classic Golf Tourn., Special Olympics, Channel 9, AARP, and Locks of Love. She donated 160+ pints of blood and faithfully donated to Holy Names Academy. She loved spending time in Maui and Whistler with her husband Don.

Carmel was preceded in death by her beloved husband Don, parents Herbert & Catherine (Noone) Shaver, brother Don, sister Cathy Legg. Survived by brothers Frank (Joan) and Paul (Sandy), sisters Barbara (Dave) Hamlin, Peggy Love, and Rebecca Aman; many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Carmel's life is being planned for spring.

The Busy B's and Project Linus



By Sibyl Fletcher

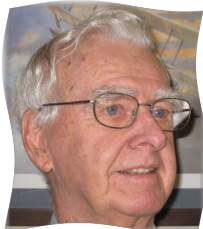
In early February, Lana Mitsules gratefully received five quilts made by Janice Hawes. **Project Linus** in Tacoma was seeking 200 blankets by February 21! Lana had learned of that need and those five quilts helped reach the goal.

Project Linus is a nationwide organization that "provides love, and a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and Afghans, lovingly created by volunteer 'blanketeers.' "

Founded in the late 1990's with national headquarters in Belton, Missouri, **Project Linus** is comprised of over 300 chapters in all 50 states and has an estimated 80,000 volunteers nationwide.

Blankets are collected locally and distributed to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug.

It doesn't take too much imagination to realize the organization is named after Linus, the Peanuts comic strip character, who is often seen clutching his blue security blanket. :)



Guest chairman's report.

By: Don Hilt

What does the real association chairman do for our monthly meetings. First, he gathers the supplies needed for the meeting. Second he sets up the speaker system. The display system makes coffee and make sure the donuts are there for the meeting.

Several members help Richard make coffee by and bring the donuts and help set up. The Soundsystem and the display system. Richard then chairs the monthly meeting. And lastly, he writes the chairman report. Several members assist Richard in the above task. They also help Richard take things down and put them away. It would be nice if a few of the members would help with the above task.

You could also help by writing the chairman's report the report could be anything you want to write about like your career, your hobbies or the trip you took to Florida to capture all those large snakes. I'm not sure how much longer Richard will be able to handle these duties of the chairman. When he's gone, it could be the end of the Bluebills monthly meetings.

Think about it are these the results you want?



Submitted by:

Tina Hall, Business Development Manager

With March just around the corner, I wanted to be sure to share the upcoming events at the various Era Living Communities. Please feel free to share these events with anyone you know who might benefit from or just enjoy attending.

Discover University House: Q&A with the Leadership Team at University House Issaquah

University House Issaquah | Tuesday, March 7, 2:00 pm

Please join us to experience what makes our retirement community so unique and welcoming. During this interactive event (think scavenger hunt!) you'll have the opportunity to hear from each department director at University House Issaquah. You will learn about their department's exceptional services, culinary choices, activities & excursions that enrich our lives in mind, body and spirit. Hear from our Executive Director, Susan Vahlkamp, and our Director of Health and Wellness, about our amenities, independent living *and* assisted living options. Limited space is available so call soon to make a reservation. We hope to see you there!

RSVP TODAY or call (425) 557- 4200

Ask the Experts: A Resident Panel Discussion

The Gardens at Town Square | Wednesday, March 13, 2:00 pm

Ever wonder what it's like to live at The Gardens at Town Square? Here's your chance to hear directly from our residents. During this panel discussion, residents will answer some of the most frequently asked questions we receive on senior living and our community. Don't miss your opportunity to get the insider's perspective, reserve your seat today!

RSVP TODAY or call (425) 688-1900

Estate Planning & Financing Options for Your Move to Aloya

Aljoya Mercer Island | Thursday, March 14, 10:30 am

In this workshop we will start with a discussion about the 3 legal documents essential to estate planning, including what they are designed to do and why they are important in addressing the full spectrum of planning around control, health, safety, finances and estate preservation. We will then talk about financing options available to people who are planning their move to Aljoya. We will touch on bridge loans and other financial options that can help make the transition smoother and less stressful.

RSVP TODAY or call (206) 230-0150

Downsize to the Rightsize

The Lakeshore | Friday, March 15, 10:00 am

Join us for this fun, informative downsizing workshop that will help you take the stress out of de-cluttering. Learn tips and get helpful suggestions on how to begin the process, what it means to right size, and receive advice on how to:

- Keep what you love
- Get rid of the “stuff”
- Handle the items that have value that you don’t want to keep
- Move forward with your life with less

[RSVP TODAY](#) or call (206) 772-1200

Essential End of Life Documents Everyone Needs

University House Issaquah | Tuesday, March 19, 11:00 am

Join us for part one of our two part legal planning series. In this presentation you’ll learn:

- Legal documents everyone should have.
- Legal planning you can do to ensure wishes are carried out during my lifetime.
- Ways to minimize or avoid family conflict after death.

[RSVP TODAY](#) or call (425) 557- 4200

“Being Human & Acting Humanely” Art Show Opening Gala

The Gardens at Town Square | Wednesday, March 20, 3:00-4:30 pm

We are pleased to present a solo exhibit by Carol Hartsock. Her art is the embodiment of timely messages. Her body of international portraits expresses our common humanity. It also focuses our attention on the fact that all cultures are impacted by the actions we take, or do not take, to solve global problems. A body of abstract work complements these portraits, with images that evoke the environmental challenges we all currently face. Her artistic focus is to bring these issues to the forefront of our minds. Enjoy hors d’oeuvres and refreshments while experiencing this event. Don’t wait, reserve your spot today!

[RSVP TODAY](#) or call (425) 688-1900

Living Large with Less Stuff

Aljoia Mercer Island | Thursday, March 28, 10:30 am

Take the stress out of de-cluttering with easy steps and practical advice for a successful transition. During this event, you will hear from the following speakers:

- Catherine Arendt, downsizing expert and Aljoia’s At Your Service Manager, who works with families from start to finish as they transition from their homes to retirement communities.
- Nicole Nicholson, Relocation Consultant at Hansen Bros. Moving & Storage and HB Move Management, who has assisted thousands of clients with their moves

NEWS THEN HISTORY NOW

Seattle's George Washington Memorial Bridge (Aurora Bridge) is dedicated on February 22, 1932.

By Priscilla Long

Posted 3/14/2003

HistoryLink.org Essay 5418

On February 22, 1932, Seattle's George Washington Memorial Bridge, commonly known as the Aurora Bridge, is dedicated. The nearly 3,000-foot, steel cantilever structure spans Lake Union between the Fremont and Queen Anne neighborhoods and completes the final link of U.S. Highway 99 (decertified in 1967 to State Route 99) from Canada to Mexico. Fifteen thousand people turn out for the dedication, which Washington Governor Roland Hartley (1864-1952) presides over and dignitaries from Canada and Mexico attend. Designed for the Washington State Highway Department, it is the first major highway bridge built in Seattle.



All America Listens

In Washington, D.C., at about 2 o'clock Pacific Standard Time, President Herbert Hoover (1874-1964) turned a telegraphic key to unfurl the flags on Seattle's bridge. Sirens wailed and a 21-gun salute cut off in mid-sentence Governor Hartley's speech. Fireboats shot lake water into the air, and the Sixth Army Engineers Band played the National Anthem.



The dedication of the George Washington Memorial Bridge was one of many celebrations across the nation of the bicentennial anniversary of George Washington's birth. In Seattle, enormous crowds surged to the main event -- the bridge dedication -- which took up many pages of newsprint. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported the event in an article titled "All America Listens."



The governor joined forces with Vancouver, B.C., Alderman W. H. Lembke and the Mexican consul, W. O. Lawton to saw the Doug-fir log that served as a ribbon, for this made "another link in the concrete chain between Canada and Mexico" ("Cutting the International Barrier").

At the time the Aurora Bridge was the second-longest cantilever bridge in the state (the Longview Bridge was the longest). Within a month, 11,000 vehicles were speeding over it every day.

Ralph Ober's Bridge

The bridge was designed by the Seattle engineering firm Jacobs and Ober, whose principal engineers were Major Joseph Jacobs (d. 1942) and Captain Ralph Ober (1871-1931). It is likely that the bridge's exquisite design was mainly or perhaps entirely the work of Ralph Ober. One reason to think so was that during the lengthy siting debate (several sites were considered including one that would have extended Stone Way), Ober was invariably the spokesman.

Tragically, Ralph Ober died on August 30, 1931, at Virginia Mason Hospital the age of 60 of a "brain hemorrhage." "Death came," reported the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, "as the greatest monument to his engineering genius, the high bridge over Lake Union, is rapidly nearing completion" ("Captain Ober, Aurora Bridge Designer, Dies"). In all of Ober's several obituaries, credit for the bridge accrued to him. And, when Joseph Jacobs died in 1942, the long list of engineering accomplishments credited to Jacobs did *not* include the Aurora Bridge. All of which suggests that the Aurora Bridge was designed by Ralph Ober.

Ober was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, on May 20, 1871, and came to Seattle in 1892 as a federal employee. From 1908 to 1911 he served as Seattle's assistant city engineer. Following that, Seattle Mayor Dilling appointed him to the Board of Public Works and as superintendent of buildings for the city. During World War I, he served as a captain in the Army Corps of Engineers. He joined the Seattle engineering firm of Joseph Jacobs as a partner in 1924. His survivors included his wife, Mattie (Shattuck) Ober, and a 7-year-old daughter, Carol Evelyn.

The Aurora Bridge

The bridge is a cantilever bridge, that is, the center span is suspended like a clothesline between two supporting spans (the cantilever spans), which are in turn supported by anchor spans. It has a steel superstructure supported on reinforced concrete piers. The piers are set on underground pilings of Doug-fir logs which are in turn set on gravel, sand, and clay under Lake Union -- there's no bedrock there. There are 684 logs (piles) under the north main pier and 828 piles under the south main pier.

The bridge is 2,945 feet long and 70 feet wide. The truss is a Warren truss (a W design patented in 1848 by British bridge engineers). It's made of silicon steel, an especially lightweight steel. It is a deck truss, so called because the truss runs under the deck.



Because of the different configurations of the opposite shores, the north and south ends of the bridge have different dimensions. It can be "read" from north to south (considering the over-water part only) as:

- north anchor span (300 feet)
- cantilever span (325 feet)
- Warren deck truss suspended span (150 feet)
- cantilever span (325 feet)
- anchor arm span (350 feet)

How High Is That Bridge?

The War Department approved a shipping clearance of a minimum of 135 feet and 150 feet over the thalweg (the center of the shipping channel). The captains of tall-masted ships docked in Lake Union protested this, but their day was over and they had to remove their vessels before the bridge trapped them in the lake forever.

As to the actual height of the bridge at its highest point, various figures are floating around, from 155 feet to 176 feet. (Both the low and the high figure are drawn from various Washington State Department of Transportation sources.) An extremely exacting medical study of the

care of suicidal jumpers off the bridge, a study published in 1983 and greatly concerned with length and velocity of fall, reports the height to be 164 feet ("The Effects of Prehospital Trauma Care...").

Jumper's Bridge

The Aurora Bridge has gained a sad reputation as one off which despondent people have leapt (every jump off the bridge does not result in death, but many do). The first jumper was a shoe salesman, age 32, who plunged to his death before the bridge was completed in 1932.

Since then about 230 people have died by jumping off the Aurora Bridge. This was sufficiently disturbing to the increasingly populated neighborhood near and under the bridge that in December 2006, emergency telephones were installed to invite suicidal persons to call for help. In February 2011 the construction of an anti-suicide fence was completed at a cost of \$5 million. It is eight feet nine inches tall. Upon completion it immediately became a memorial for those lost to suicide, with flowers and pictures affixed to various points on the bridge.

The Fremont Troll

On a less grim note, one of the bridge's more quirky features is an 18-foot-high, one-eyed troll that squats beneath the north end. The troll has a giant nose, a gleaming eye, and appears to be preoccupied with squashing a vehicle (a VW bug) in his giant hand.



He (it) was commissioned by the Fremont Arts Council and was sculpted in 1990 by four Seattle artists -- Steve Badanes, Will Martin, Donna Walter, and Ross Whitehead. It is made from rebar steel, wire, and two tons of ferroconcrete. It took about seven weeks to complete.

The troll has become an icon of the Fremont neighborhood and one of its most photographed objects. It lives under the bridge at the top of the road that in 2005 Seattle renamed Troll Avenue North.

Beautiful, Historic, Traffic-clogged

The George Washington Memorial Bridge is listed on the state and national historic registers. It has also been reconfigured for safety, a process its landmark status complicated but did not prevent.

It has had its earthquake retrofit. New concrete barriers with an aluminum rail have been placed between the sidewalk and vehicular traffic, which will increase safety both for pedestrians and for vehicles which are now, in an accident, much less likely to go over the edge.

In 2006 the Aurora Bridge carries 100,000 vehicles a day and is one of the state's designated "hot spots" for being within a high-accident zone (along with other stretches of SR 99). Plans, not yet funded, have been made to place the sidewalks under the deck and to make other safety improvements. The bridge remains, despite the unavoidable alterations, a built object of monumental beauty.

Calendar of Events 2024 In Person Meetings

<i>Jan 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Feb 23</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Mar 29</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Apr 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>May 31</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jun 28</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Jul 26</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Aug 30</i>	<i>Chapter In-Door Potluck</i>
<i>Sept 27</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Oct 25</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Nov 22</i>	<i>Chapter Monthly Meeting</i>
<i>Dec 20</i>	<i>Chapter Holiday Potluck</i>

Food Bank Schedule For 2024

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

<i>January</i>		<i>Open</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Bellevue</i>	<i>Doug Hoople</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Issaquah</i>	<i>Dick Beham</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>Renton</i>	<i>Meri England</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Black Diamond</i>	<i>Vaughn's</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Federal Way</i>	<i>Don Hilt</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>White Center</i>	<i>Heinz Gehlhaar</i>
<i>November</i>		<i>Open</i>
<i>December</i>		<i>Open</i>

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

Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



March 29, 2024



Social: 10:00AM

Meeting 10 :30 - 11:30 AM

Speaker: Katherine Edwards, KCTS-9 Cascade Public Media



Subject: CPM Community Reach

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