



# The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills  
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

November 2023

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

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## Chairman's Comments

*By Don Hilt*

Our organization is like a patient on life-support. If we have any less members coming to our meetings, we could hold our meetings in a phone booth. All of you remember them I think.

I still remember the first meeting that I ever went to. There were about 300 members there. When I entered the meeting, I saw they had coffee and donuts and I thought what a way to enjoy meeting.

How about saying a prayer for Margaret Stone who is still recovering from her fall?



## Chapter Meeting November 17th Presentation

*By Jim Beasley*

**W** CENTER FOR AN INFORMED PUBLIC  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Our presenter on November 17th will be from the University of Washington Center for an Informed Public .

The Center for an Informed Public officially launched in December 2019 and was co-founded as an interdisciplinary collaboration by several University of Washington schools and departments: “**Our mission** is to resist strategic misinformation, promote an informed society, and strengthen democratic discourse.”

With generative AI, we're ‘entering a period where we're going to get higher-quality disinformation and propaganda’



## October Meeting Summary

By: Mary Ulibarri

It was a delight to see a decent turnout for today's meeting. We're looking forward to the day we get back to more filled tables in the future. Doug Hoople opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. There was one attendee with a birthday this month, Nancy Davidson, and my list shows Martha Battles and Carmel Camerini. Jim Beasley and Carla Becker celebrated their 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

Members are reminded to turn in volunteer hours to [marybarri20@gmail.com](mailto:marybarri20@gmail.com) or Dick Beham at [bbbeditor@live.com](mailto:bbbeditor@live.com).

Jim then introduced our speaker, Elizabeth (Liz) A. Nesbitt, Curator Emerita of invertebrate paleontology at the Burke Museum for Natural History and Culture. She is also a retired associate professor of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington.

Her distinguished scientific contributions to the marine paleontology of the Pacific Northwest have earned many awards and honors, including having a tiny fossil snail and a fossil whale names for her, called *Ma-iabalaena nesbittae*. She is currently working with Burke colleagues on measuring the health of Puget Sound through examination of the micro-fauna in the bottom sediments.



With the help of a visual presentation, Liz touched on many creatures and fossils across Washington State indicating clues of past life on Earth. With abundant and well-exposed rock layers, the state has fossils dating from Ice Age mammals only 12,000 years old back to marine invertebrates more than 500 million years old.

Liz's presentation focused on the recent published book *Spirit Whales and Sloth Tales – Fossils of Washington State* authored by her and David B. Williams, a naturalist, author, and educator with many books to his credit including the award-winning *Homewaters: A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound*.

*Spirit Whales and Sloth Tales* offers a fascinating, richly illustrated tour through more than a half billion years of natural history. Following an introduction to key concepts, a number of profiles—each featuring a unique plant, animal, or environment—tell the incredible stories of individual fossils. The spectacular paleontology of Washington is brought to life with details of the fossils' discovery and extraction, their place in geological time, and the insights they provide into contemporary issues like climate change and species extinction.

For more information on this topic and many more fascinating collections, visit the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, which has been a Washington state museum since 1899. It is located at Seattle's University of Washington campus at the intersection of N.E. 45th Street and 17th Avenue N.E. It is the only major natural history museum in the Pacific Northwest and the state's oldest museum. Its collection numbers over 12 million artifacts and specimens, in-

cluding totem poles, gemstones, and dinosaur fossils.

The museum houses more than 12 million artifacts and specimens in its anthropology, biology, and geology research divisions. Highlights include:

- The nation's fifth largest collection of Northwest Coast and Alaskan Native art
- The world's largest collection of spread bird wings (a technique that Burke pioneered)
- The world's second largest collection of frozen bird tissues for genetic research
- One of the largest collections of Northwest plants and fungi
- Over one million archaeological artifacts, including extensive collections from Washington state sites around Puget Sound and the Columbia River.



Liz answered a number of questions from the audience and thanked the Bluebills for inviting her to our meeting.

Doug then closed the meeting with the door prize drawing.



### **Holiday Family Gift Drive Nov 1 – Dec 11 The 2023**

Giving Together Family Drive is only weeks away from launching. You can help bring a smile to children and teens this holiday season by supporting the drive through a donation of toys and gift items or by hosting your own gift drive. We will be announcing the official launch shortly, in the meantime for more information contact the Development Team at [drives@wellspringfs.org](mailto:drives@wellspringfs.org).



Securing today  
and tomorrow

*Submitted by: Micki Brown*

**October is Blindness Awareness Month. Please join us in recognizing those who are blind or live with other visual impairments.**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) provides helpful resources for the blind or visually impaired so that they can access our programs and services. They include materials in alternate formats. There are also resources available from other federal agencies to help people who are blind or visually impaired access their programs and services. Some of the resources include:

Our webpage, [If You Are Blind or Visually Impaired](#) and our publication, [If You're Blind or Have Low Vision – How We Can Help](#).

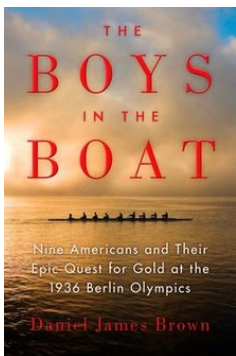
- We offer our publications in PDF and audio formats and also in alternative media such as Braille, large print, and on audio CD.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing's (BEP) U.S. Currency Reader Program provides [iBill currency reader devices](#) to U.S. citizens and legal residents, at no cost. BEP's free mobile applications, [EyeNote for iOS](#) and [IDEAL Currency Identifier for Android](#), can also assist with recognizing the denomination of U.S. currency notes.

The National Library's Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) [free audiobook and braille program](#). This program offers free circulation of books and magazines, in audio and braille, via instant download or delivery by mail. Books and magazines circulated by NLS can be accessed using NLS-provided audio playback equipment and refreshable braille displays. Other resources found on the [NLS webpage Informational Publications](#).

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) webpages, [IRS Resources and Services for Visually Impaired Taxpayers](#) and [Accessibility Guide](#). These pages have tax forms, instructions, and publications in Braille, large print, and Section 508-compliant PDF formats.

Please share these resources with your colleagues, family, and friends.



**'Boys in the Boat' screening set for Sequim High**  
**Sunrise Rotary looks to honor Joe Rantz, help homeless youths**  
*Excerpt from the Sequim Gazette October 21, 2023 by Matthew Nash* ['Boys in the Boat' screening set for Sequim High | Sequim Gazette](#)

After some proactive high schoolers lobbied online and Hollywood producers listened, Sequim will host a special screening of "The Boys in the Boat" this December.

Anticipation has grown nationwide in the last week for the George Clooney-helmed movie as its poster and [trailer](#) were revealed. The film is based on author Daniel James Brown's book chronicling the University of Washington rowing team's journey to represent the United States

*(Continued on page 5)*



at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, often called “Hitler’s Olympics.” Sequim icon Joe Rantz is a central figure to the book and now movie, played by Callum Turner.

Sequim’s special event screening tentatively takes place at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 in the Sequim High School Auditorium prior to the film going to theaters Christmas Day.

Event information is still being formalized, said Sequim Sunrise Rotarian Pat McCauley, and it will be invite only with a waitlist. More information will become available soon at [joerantzrotaryyouthfund.org](http://joerantzrotaryyouthfund.org).

**The Boys in the Boat is a sports drama based on the #1 New York Times bestselling non-fiction novel written by Daniel James Brown. The film, directed by George Clooney, is about the 1936 University of Washington rowing team that competed for gold at the Summer Olympics in Berlin. This inspirational true story follows a group of underdogs at the height of the Great Depression as they are thrust into the spotlight and take on elite rivals from around the world.—MGM**

<https://www.tribute.ca/trailers/the-boys-in-the-boat-trailer/29404/>

### **‘Why you should vote,’ by local Author/Professor TM Sell, Ph.D.**

Oct 13, 2023 | [Des Moines](#), [Elections](#), [Featured Post](#), [Government](#), [News](#), [Politics](#)

Submitted by: Lonnie Stevenson



#### **T.M. Sell, Ph.D.**

**When I ask my students when the next election is, frequently they will say “November 2024” or whichever presidential year is coming up next.**

In fact there is an election every year. Odd-numbered years feature local races such as school boards, city councils and utility districts. Who fills these seats likely will have a larger impact on your immediate life than who the president is, but these elections have the lowest turnout of the four-year election cycle.

It’s worth noting that recently, Democrats in King County got voters to approve moving county elections to even-numbered years, in line with the rest of the state. They hope it will increase voter turnout.

Ironically, this move will most help Republicans, since Republican voters are more like to vote all the way to the bottom of the ballot. That matters because in presidential years, Washington voters face perhaps the longest ballots on earth, and the total vote for each office falls considerably by the time we get to district court judges and what-not.

Nonetheless, you should vote in this year's elections. Cities are generally 4P: police, parks, planning and potholes. So if you care about what gets built where, how many police are on patrol, or fixing divots in your local roads, it matters who's there.

School boards set policy, approve budgets and hire and fire the superintendent. Much of the policy is dictated by the state, and the boards don't wade into classrooms and discipline teachers. Variation in district test scores can be largely explained by average income levels and by the number of homes in a district where English is not the first language spoken.

Nonetheless, a well-managed district can take action to help students, and also keep teachers happy. If you don't think that matters, remember that teachers' working conditions are students' learning conditions. And that ought to count for something.

**Please note:** Cities have nothing to do with running the schools. So don't be one of those folks who calls the mayor to complain about the schools. They don't run them.

Aside from all these things that affect your local quality of life, you should vote because you can.

Consider the reasons folks don't vote: They don't like the candidates. Really? I've never met a perfect candidate, and if I did it would scare me. Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Broken promises: Be real. You're electing one person who will work with four to eight others to try to make policy. Any candidate who vows to make something happen doesn't understand how things work. You're electing a tendency, not a certainty.

The first rule of politics is learn to count. If you have four votes on a seven-member council, you have policy. If you have three, you have nothing, no matter how brilliant your idea may be. Meanwhile, with mail-in ballots, drop boxes, voters pamphlets and late registration (up to the day of the election if you want to go to the county elections office, eight days before to register online), Washington state has made it as easy as possible to vote. So lack of time and information is a difficult argument to make for why you don't vote.

(You can register at [myvote.wa.gov](https://myvote.wa.gov). All you need is a driver's license or valid state ID. It will take you less than five minutes to register.)

You should always vote because your vote always counts. When you vote, you are the equal of everyone else. Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos get no more votes than you.

Your vote always counts because of margin of victory. If you support candidate X and feel certain that she or he will win, you vote anyway because the more they win by, the less likely they will face serious opposition next time around.

If your favored candidate is likely to lose, you still vote. The closer they get in terms of the vote, the more likely they or someone else on your side of the political fence will get more serious support the next time they run.

Political operatives watch margin of victory, and from this they know – Candidate X is solid, don't waste your time and money chasing after them. Candidate Y didn't win by much and will be vulnerable next time around.

Above all, voting gives you the right to complain. How many people have you met who like to complain about government but don't vote (and often don't seem to know how it works)? You can be certain that your vote counts even less if you don't use it.

*T.M. Sell, Ph.D. is professor of political economy at Highline College. His latest book is Washington State Politics and Government, published by the University of Nebraska Press.*



STREET LEVEL OUTREACH

## Hygiene Kits for Salvation Army

### Street Level Outreach

Submitted by: Norma Vaughn

I received this from the Salvation Army, Lisa Borders. They have a project to provide Hygiene Kits for Street Level Outreach and are in need of donations as shown on the image:

Street Level is a permanent housing, person centered, strengths-based approach to help individuals identify the choices and solutions to end their homeless experience with limited interaction with the crisis response system.

The Salvation Army does this in collaboration with several King Co. police and sheriff departments and housing entities.

#### Creating Hygiene Kits or Meal Kits



##### Suggested items for a Hygiene Kit:

1. Socks
2. Underwear
3. Cotton t-shirts (i.e. Hanes)
4. Feminine products
5. Wet wipes
6. Shampoo/conditioner
7. Bar of soap
8. Shave cream
9. Disposable razors
10. Deodorant
11. Toothbrushes
12. Toothpaste
13. Lip balm
14. Body lotion
15. Band Aids
16. Comb
17. Nail clippers

##### Suggested items for a Meal Kit:

1. Individually wrapped snacks
2. Raisins and other dried fruit
3. Ready to eat packets tuna or chicken
4. Peanut butter
5. Granola bars
6. Nuts
7. Crackers
8. Beef sticks / pepperoni
9. Fruit cups
10. Pop top canned foods
11. Cereal bars
12. Cup of Noodles
13. Instant oatmeal cups
14. Applesauce cups
15. Trail mix

- Pack items in a 1 or 2 gallon zip-lock type bag.

- Consider adding a note of encouragement! The homeless are often denied basic dignity and even acknowledgment by others. Including an encouraging note with the food or hygiene items, and telling someone you care, and they matter, could be just the words they need to hear!

#### Questions?

Please contact Lisa Borders, Corporate Engagement Director, The Salvation Army  
[Lisa.borders@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Lisa.borders@usw.salvationarmy.org) or 206-459-6351



## Volunteer at the stores this fall!

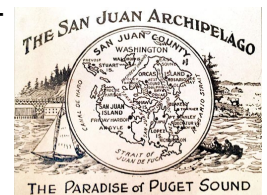
Our volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity Stores have many roles to fill – from providing helpful customer service to creating DIY projects and displays, to painting store signs and organizing stock. We will assess your natural abilities to find a place where you'll fit in and a role that interests you. No experience needed!

### SEE OPPORTUNITIES



## THIS WEEK THEN A County Is Born

One hundred and fifty years ago this week, on [October 31, 1873](#), the Washington Territorial Legislature created [San Juan County](#). To celebrate this sesquicentennial, we invite you to explore the [many essays](#) that our team of San Juan writers have written over the years. The county has a very vibrant history, and we think you'll enjoy learning more about it.



For centuries the San Juan Islands were home to Lummi, Samish, and other Northern Straits Salish people. Non-Native settlers began arriving in the 1800s. The [British](#) came first, claiming the land as [their own](#), but were soon followed by American settlers and troops who claimed likewise. This led to the notorious [Pig War](#) and a 13-year [standoff](#) that ended in an 1872 ruling that the entire archipelago belonged to the United States.

When the Pig War began, [Edward Warbass](#) arrived on San Juan Island as a sutler appointed by the U.S. Army to sell goods and supplies to the soldiers stationed there. He opened a company store near San Juan Town and soon was elected to the territorial legislature as a representative from Whatcom County (to which the disputed San Juan Islands were assigned by the legislature before it created San Juan County).

Warbass left the island in 1864 to buy some sheep, but was waylaid in a series of adventures. He returned just as the boundary dispute was being resolved. Seizing the moment, he successfully petitioned the territorial legislature to create San Juan County so that island residents could elect their own officials and decide on their own taxes and laws specifically appropriate to the island community. Warbass felt that San Juan Town was not suitable as a county seat, so he next



campaigned to establish a new community farther north on what was called "[Friday's Harbor](#)." Today [Friday Harbor](#) remains the county seat and is the only incorporated community in the San Juan Islands.

## Masks to be Worn

Halloween conjures up images of [ghosts](#), [vampires](#), [monsters](#), and [haunted houses](#), but for many the holiday is just a chance to have fun and dress up as someone or something else. This week, HistoryLink.org looks at costumed events in Washington's past that might inspire ideas for your own Halloween masquerades.

In 1874, some 300 Seattle citizens attended a winter [costume ball](#), where folks dressed as such characters as King Stork, Big Head, Diana the Huntress, and even the Seattle Post Office. One gent dressed as [Henry Yesler](#), who was also in attendance – as himself. At a 1920 [Chautauqua](#) in Auburn, a procession of 50 children paraded through the streets "in costumes unique, ornate, and grotesque," and in 1937, the [Lincoln County Fair](#) held a costume contest for horses and goats.

Costumes, of course, are often used [on stage](#), be it at a [pioneer pageant](#) or a [historical recreation](#). And they are sometimes worn in public to make a point. Publicity-seeking bandleader and politician [Vic Meyers](#) occasionally turned heads by dressing up as Mahatma Gandhi, [Miss Spokane](#) wore Native American garb to promote her city, and the [Sea Turtle costumes](#) seen at the 1999 [WTO protests](#) in Seattle are now preserved in the archives of the [Museum of History and Industry](#).

This year, if you're trying to decide on a Halloween costume that's uniquely Northwest, may we suggest the [Umbrella Man](#), [D. B. Cooper](#), [Sasquatch](#), or [Bobo the Gorilla](#)? But whatever you do, watch out if you decide to dress up as a bear. In 1957 a Bothell man did just that and climbed a tree, where he was [almost shot](#) by anxious town residents until they noticed that the bogus bruin was wearing shoes.

## Bits & Pieces

### More Things You Learn if You Live Long Enough!

- Driver: "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?" Officer, "Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle.."
- When I was a kid, I used to watch the 'Wizard of Oz' & wonder how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Then I got Facebook.
- Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation with "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.
- A guy walks into a lumberyard & asks for some 2x4s. The clerk asks, "How long do you need them?" The guy answers, "A long time. We're gonna build a house."



**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 Potluck</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>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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| <b>(Open)</b>         | <b>School Supplies for Children</b><br><a href="mailto:bluebills@boeing.com">bluebills@boeing.com</a>                     |

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

# Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



**November 17, 2023**

**Social 10:00AM, Meeting 10:30 - 11:30AM**

***Speaker: W Center for an Informed Public***

***Subject: Misinformation, disinformation & propaganda***

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

*(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