

# ARSCE

ACTIVE & RETIRED SEATTLE CITY EMPLOYEES

# NEWS



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED SEATTLE CITY EMPLOYEES  
For: Active & Retired Seattle City Employees  
P.O. Box 75385, WA 98175-0385

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## OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Masterjohn

Well, we made it back from Maui just in time for Christmas. While we were gone, two of our daughters bought our tree, then decorated it and the house (inside), and that was great to come home to. The weather was a little wetter than I had hoped for, but it was always warm so I can't complain. The only thing that was a little weird was listening to Christmas music in 80 degree weather and wearing shorts and tee shirts; but the snorkeling was great.

We had a wonderful Christmas luncheon at the West Seattle Golf Course last December and the food was just delicious. We had a large turnout and fun was had by all. Our next luncheon is on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the golf course and I hope to see you all there. Please remember to sign up early so we can plan on how many of you will be attending.

At one of our last meetings, we made the decision to let current employees join ARSCE (Active & Retired Seattle City Employees) before they retire. During our most recent meeting, it was mentioned that if every one of us would talk to two people who are still working for the City and recruit them, we could build up our membership substantially.

At the last SCERS (Seattle City Employees' Retirement System) meeting, 350.org (an organization building a global climate movement) showed up with a large contingency of people who, again, were trying to talk the Board into divesting from fossil fuel securities. Lou Walter's last article in this paper explained the situation, so if you missed it look it up in the January/February issue of ARSCE News.

I want to thank Pam Baer for the great job she is doing as ARSCE's Financial Secretary and we will miss her when she leaves the position. Now you know that we need a new person to step up and volunteer for the position. Pam has agreed to help train the new person, but she will be leaving the area soon, so if you know anyone who would be interested in the position please have them contact me, Pam Baer, Barbara Graham or Joanne Kinsella.

I talked with one of the City unions and they said the negotiations are on hold for now. They are not sure when things will take a serious turn back to negotiating once again.

I hope to see you at the Spring Luncheon on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

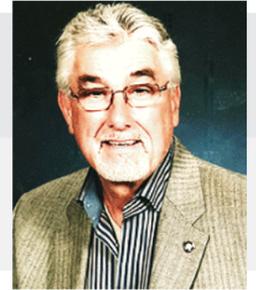
Best regards,

John Masterjohn

Contact Mr. Masterjohn at [president@arsce.org](mailto:president@arsce.org)

## YOUR PENSION NEWS

By Lou Walter, Retired Employee,  
Member of the Seattle City  
Employees' Retirement System



### The Chinese Blessing or Curse: "May you live in interesting times" of Challenges

On behalf of myself and the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) Board of Administrators, I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and hope that 2015 brings better market performance and improved funding ratio than 2014 produced.

We'll continue to face many challenges in the upcoming year. Threat of a European recession, globe warming and fossil fuel divestiture, falling oil prices, low interest rates, and the risk of deflation—these are just a few pending issues that could impact portfolio performance.

Your Board has a lot of work on its agenda for 2015: including policy decisions on Fossil Fuel investments, Allocation and Assets Liability study to determine portfolio performance regarding earnings and risk, as well as Pension reform issues on the State and Federal levels. There are still discussions going in the City of Seattle regarding possible changes to the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System. Whether or not any pension reform ideas will be brought to the Board in 2015 remains uncertain at this time.

I remain optimistic that SCERS will continue to improve and strengthen its financial position and meet its promised benefits to the future, current active, and retired members of the system.

I have reported before to you that we've seen increasing decline in Defined Benefit (DB) Plans like SCERS in favor of Defined Contribution (DC) Plans or 401k-type saving plans that we're experiencing in the Private Sector. The shift away from (DB) plans to 401k-type plans in the private sector has put increased political pressure on public employer plans since 2008 (financial crisis) to do the same. Doing so requires the employees to individually manage their own investment portfolio and to assume all the risk that comes with that.

Contrary to popular beliefs, DC retirement accounts are NOT inherently less costly than DB pensions. Switching from a DB to a DC system only saves money for the sponsor by substantially cutting benefits.

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In fact, DB pensions feature critical efficiencies that make them significantly less expensive to provide a given level of retirement benefit compared to DC plans. This was documented in a National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) study in 2008. The study found a typical DB pension plan provides a given level of retirement benefit at about half the cost of a 401k-style plan because of three factors:

- The pooling of longevity risk in DB pensions enables them to fund benefits based on the average life expectancy, and yet, pay each worker monthly income no matter how long they live. In contrast, DC plans must receive excess contributions to enable each worker to self-insure against the possibility of living longer than average.
- DB pensions realize a higher net investment return due to professional management and lower fees from the economies of scale.
- DB pensions are able to maintain portfolio diversification over time, while DC participants must shift to lower-risk/lower-return as they age. This means that over a lifetime, DB pensions earn a higher gross investment return than DC accounts.

In summary, when it comes to providing retirement income, DB pensions are more efficient because they pool risk over a larger number of individuals, invest in a longer time horizon, and have higher returns and lower expenses (fees). ❖ ❖ ❖

**It's Your Life**

By Veronica Baca

**5 Ways to Improve Your Habits**

Over the past two weeks, the topic of habits keeps coming up from different sources. So I've learned some new information about them and thought I'd summarize and share it here.

Wikipedia says a habit is "a routine of behavior that is repeated regularly and tends to occur unconsciously. Old habits are hard to break and new habits are hard to form because the behavioral patterns we repeat are imprinted in our neural pathways." Heavy.

So, after my brief research project, here are the best 5 ways I've discovered to change "bad habits" into "good habits":

1. Understand that habits are a loop of: cue – routine – reward. Even so-called bad habits have some kind of reward, or pay off. Sometimes you have to dig deep to see what the pay off is, but once you find it this understanding can help you start a change.

2. Interrupt old patterns, just as you feel them pulling you in. Say you check email every morning first thing and you want to wait an hour before you start. When you feel like starting first thing, do anything else. A lot of people use something called Tapping (see author Nick Ortner). You use your fingertips to tap on your hands, and your face to interrupt old patterns, and change them. I have some even better tools too deep to go into here, but check with me and I'll be happy to share them too.

3. Add whatever your new habit is to a current habit you have. Our brain cells literally wire themselves together when actions are taken together, and the more times an action is repeated, the stronger the connection embeds. For example, if you want to start drinking more water every day, brush your teeth, and then add drinking a glass of water right after. It's more efficient to hook something new to a current habit than to start a new habit from a blank slate because there's a behavior neuron already firing.

4. Start small. Say your overall goal is to have a new, healthy morning routine. Instead of trying to add several new activities to your 'first thing in the morning' routine, add one per week, eventually getting to the point that you do them all. For example, one of my friends wakes up, does her stretching, brushes her teeth, drinks water, writes in her journal, meditates, then goes to work on something productive. One step at a time is optimal for making changes.

5. Start noticing and appreciating all the good habits you already have. Appreciation is proven, in social studies, to be one of the best feelings humans can have; leading to happiness. Because part of the habit equation is 'unconscious,' just noticing good habits will automatically become a reward and help reinforce the creation of more of them.

*Veronica Baca retired from SPU in August 2013 and has become a Life Coach. You may contact her at [veronicabaca75@gmail.com](mailto:veronicabaca75@gmail.com)*



**Happy St. Patrick's Day**  
~ March 17th ~

**Essential Telephone Numbers And Web Addresses**

ARSCE: 206.992.7311

(Change of Address/Membership Questions)

E-mail: [financial.secretary@arsce.org](mailto:financial.secretary@arsce.org)Website: [www.arsce.org](http://www.arsce.org)

Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens: 206.684.0500

(Information on available programs/services)

E-mail: [seniors@seattle.gov](mailto:seniors@seattle.gov)Website: [www.seattle.gov/seniors](http://www.seattle.gov/seniors)

Personnel Department: 206.615.1340

(Benefits)

E-mail: [benefits@arsce.org](mailto:benefits@arsce.org)Website: [www.seattle.gov/Personnel/](http://www.seattle.gov/Personnel/)

Retirement Office: 206.386.1293 or

1.877.865.0079

(Retirement Checks/Health&amp;Dental Benefits/General Questions/Change of Address/Tax Withholding)

E-mail: [retirecity@seattle.gov](mailto:retirecity@seattle.gov)Website: [www.seattle.gov/retirement](http://www.seattle.gov/retirement)**Statement of Ownership And Management**1) Owner and Publisher: Active & Retired Seattle City Employees  
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Barbara Graham, Vice President  
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Pam Baer, Financial Secretary  
Elizabeth Paschke, Treasurer  
Lee Sattler, Editor

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6) The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees, d/b/a Active &amp; Retired Seattle City Employees (ARSCE), is a non-profit organization for educational purposes according to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible.

ARSCE semi-annual dues are \$6.00 each year from January 1 through June 30. Opinions stated by various writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policy of ARSCE.

Contact us at [www.arsce.org](http://www.arsce.org)  
Or telephone us at 206.992.7311



## The View from the Buses

By Paul Pioli

The news coming in has been slow to nonexistent. If it were not for Pinky Neuharth and Bob Morgan sending me jokes and political jokes, I would have nothing. Maybe next issue I'll have more information for you.

**RIP:** At the December 20<sup>th</sup> breakfast held at the Burien Elks, we were greatly saddened with the news that **Merlin Smith**, East Base window for many years, had passed away. Merlin was fun to kid with. Coming into East Base to get the lost and found, I would always ask if I could get the day off. He would always say sure, but it got a little testy the time when an operator wanted the day off and was denied. His wife Sherry had passed away about 10 months earlier.

Also, retired North Base operator **Mike Rossner** was killed in an auto accident in early December. According to Mike's wife, he had just changed heart meds and they think that may have caused him some of his problems. Mike had a memorial service on January 27<sup>th</sup> on Camano Island.

**Joe Culler** passed away on Thanksgiving Day. He worked on the buses at South Base. **Elmer Turner**, long time supervisor, passed away in late November.

Contact Mr. Pioli with your news at [busview@arsce.org](mailto:busview@arsce.org)



### Complete Our Circle

Join ARSCE today as a Retiree, Beneficiary or even if you are currently working.

Application on Page 12.

### Send ARSCE Your News, Short Stories & Poems

You can send your information to:

*ARSCE News*

P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385

Or email your news and information to:

[arscenews@arsce.org](mailto:arscenews@arsce.org)

#### NEXT NEWS DEADLINE:

March 24th, 2015

(All submittals become the property of ARSCE.)

## Fellowship All Over Town



**Engineers' Luncheon:** Retired City and County Engineering people meet for lunch quarterly. Call Barbara Graham @ 206.525.7859; or Ted Ormbrek @ 206.522.7867; or Joe Curulla @ 425.643.0309; or Sharon Howell @ 206.363.1909 for information.

**City Light Line Crews & Friends Breakfast:** This group meets at Shay's Restaurant, 15744 Aurora Ave. North, near 160th on the East side of Aurora, on the first Thursday of the month at 8:00 AM. Call Bud Eickstadt at 206.362.8336 for information.

**RCLEA (Retired City Light Employees' Association) Lunches:** If you retired from City Light, you should be receiving the Newsletter sent out at regular intervals which lists the dates and locations of the informal luncheons and the more formal fall and spring luncheons. For information contact Jack Kelley at 206.522.0807 or go to [www.rclea.net](http://www.rclea.net)

**Retired Range Service Employees** meet at the Blue Star Restaurant, 4512 Stone Way North, Seattle, at 12 Noon on the second Wednesday of each month.

**Seattle Transit Breakfast (North End):** This group meets at Shari's Restaurant, 15252 Aurora Ave. N., on the first Saturday of each month.

**Transit Retirees (South End):** Meet at the Burien Elks Lodge at South 140th St. and 1st Ave. South on the third Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM for breakfast. Contact Al Ramey at 206.243.8504 or Dave Carter at 206.910.8311.

**City Light South End Crews and Friends:** This group will meet for breakfast at 9:00 AM the first Tuesday of each month at the Denny's located on First Ave. So. and So. 148th Street. Call Arnie Schroeder at 206.824.1747 for information.

**SDot's Traffic Signal Division** retirees meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Tommy's Café, 74 Rainier Avenue South in Renton, WA. For information contact Jim Chase at 206.246.5848.

**METRO Retirees' Lunch:** This group meets at 11:00 AM the second Tuesday of Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., and Nov. at the Crazy Moose Casino, 22003 66th Ave. West in Mountlake Terrace. At 11:00 AM on the second Wednesday of Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct., and Dec. The group meets at Billy Baroo's Restaurant located at 13500 Interurban Ave. So. in Tukwila. For information call Lonnie Sewell at 206.915.1415.

**Another Retired Transit Group:** This group meets the 1st Saturday of the month at the Family Pancake House located at 238th & Aurora at 7:30 AM. Contact Dave Carter at 206.910.8311.

**Old Timers Luncheon Group MTD/DAS/ESD.** This group meets at 11:00 AM the first Monday of the month at the Old Country Buffet, 4022 Factoria Square Mall SE, Bellevue, WA.

**Engineering Retirees' Lunch:** Engineering Dept. Field Personnel Retirees meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM at Shay's Restaurant located at N. 160th St. & Aurora Ave. N. in Shoreline, WA. Contact Roy Galloway at 206.362.3937 for further information.

**Parks Dept. Retirees' Luncheons** are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the 125th Street Grill located at 12255 Aurora Ave. North. Meet at 11:30 AM for lunch.

**Health Dept. Environmental Health Workers and Spouses** meet weekly every Saturday for breakfast at 7:30 AM. All Health Dept. retirees are welcome. For information call John Nordin at 206.524.7837.

## CANDIDATES STATEMENTS FOR THE MARCH, 2015 ELECTION TO THE ARSCE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Your ballot for the ARSCE Executive Board Election will be included in this edition of this paper. Please familiarize yourselves with the candidates' information and be prepared to vote for no more than six (6) of the people whose names appear below. The names are arranged in last name alphabetical order.**

### **Veronica Baca**

When I got a call from Barb Graham to ask me if I'd be available to serve on this Board, I was so surprised. I hadn't talked to her in years! That's what has happened a lot since I retired from Seattle Public Utilities in August 2013. It's so weird after seeing so many co-workers daily for (in my case) 25 years to suddenly see mostly none of them. That's why I decided I'd be happy to contribute whatever I can to this great group. Working for SPU I used to do finance, rates, accounting, strategic Planning and Implementation, HR, Facilities Planning, and I ended with Project Manager Advising. Now I'm a Life Coach and I love it! Since the 4th quarter of 2013, I began writing a short article for the bi-monthly ARSCE newsletters called "Its Your Life." I'm at your service.

### **Ann Beard**

Ann is an incumbent Board member who is Chair of the Program Committee starting in 2015. She was first hired as a Parking Checker in 1969 and retired in 2000 after 30 years of service. For many years Ann has been involved in the community through the Seattle Italian Club and St. Vincent De Paul.

"Job security, paid vacations, seniority, and good health benefits have all contributed to working for the City for so many years. I want to be an ARSCE Board Member to be able to bring new ideas to help further strengthen the retiree's position. I feel I can help by representing Parking Enforcement retirees and also those who retired from the Police Department. I am committed to help reduce the cost of medical premiums. Being on the ARSCE Board allows me to enhance my involvement and further commitment to my fellow retired employees."

### **Martha Burke**

Martha served as an Alternate Board member in 2014. She had worked for the City since 1990, first in the Engineering Department and then Seattle Public Utilities. Martha worked in Solid Waste, helping the City establish procedures for managing hazardous waste and materials, and then was responsible for closing the City's Kent Highlands Landfill. Later she was responsible for developing SPU's Wastewater Systems Plan and for improving drainage and wastewater service in Seattle neighborhoods. She retired in 2013.

Since retiring, Martha has been building a new home in Suquamish in Kitsap County, staying involved in local political campaigns and volunteering with her church. She is working to improve her Spanish and staying active through hiking with the Mountaineers. "I was proud to work for the City of Seattle with many people who were dedicated to the work they did, and made Seattle great. ARSCE, through its efforts, is working to ensure that retirement for City employees is secure, and respects that dedication. I would be honored to serve on the Board to assist with that effort."

### **Alan Hovland**

Alan started to work at the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation in 1996 as a Seasonal Parks Laborer. He spent over 8 years working in Grounds Maintenance before working his way up and becoming a Crew Chief, and then a Manager in the Facilities Maintenance Division, to complete a 30 year career with the City. He is proud to have worked with so many wonderful people throughout the Parks and City. One award he received was for the "Most Diverse Crew". Alan has been associated with ARSCE since 1984 when he began writing his column which was originally called "Park Place". His wife Diana was the Parks and Recreation Senior Adult Coordinator, and also contributed to the ARSCE Newsletter with the legendary editor Virginia Jacobsen.

Alan has been very busy since retiring in 1996 with volunteer work. He has remained in Rotary and is currently in the University Sunrise Rotary Club, serving as the longtime Secretary, where he has several projects like El Centro de la Raza Santa pictures for children and Books for the World for Southern Africa. He continues to volunteer at the Ballard Senior Center on the Board, where he has served in every office and continues to remain the 15 year Auction Chair. He served as the President of the Board of Senior Services of Seattle King County. His many skills, learned in his career in the Parks Department, have been transferable to a rich life volunteering to help other people. One of his several hobbies include Parks history and he secured the Ben Evans Recreation Collection which is now in the Archives of the City Clerk's

Office and available to all to see. ARSCE is a valuable organization in maintaining the quality of life of retirees. Alan would be honored to serve on the ARSCE Board.

### **Glenda Inman**

Glenda served as an Alternate Board member in 2014. She worked for 18 years as assistant to a citizen's board, the Board of Ethics/Fair Campaign Practices Commission, under five different citizen chairpersons. In 1991, she worked as staff for the Street Use Appeals Board until it was disbanded some four years later. She then joined the Seattle Transportation Department and worked as a public information officer until her retirement in 1999. Glenda enjoys a busy and active retirement, volunteering, entertaining friends and family, enjoying recreation and out-of-doors, and simply living life on a bucolic island in the Sound. After retiring and enjoying some foreign travel, she had a final TES job with Peter Steinbrueck when he was Council President. She is, in her own words, not too busy to make herself available as a Board member of ARSCE and would serve in the best interest of its membership/leadership.

### **Edie Jorgensen**

Edie began her service on the ARSCE Board in 2009, and currently serves on the Election Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, and the Legislation, Pensions and Insurance Committee. She retired from the Personnel Department in 2006 after 33 years of service and then worked temp for City Light and the Municipal Court during the following years when she wasn't too busy in the garden. Her City work included employment testing, research and validation, classification and compensation management, and personnel records. She still serves as the vice-president of her local rural community association on an Unincorporated Area Council, and is again the secretary for her homeowners' association. She has lots of experience working on the boards of several volunteer organizations and is ready, able, and willing to deal with the administrative details an organization has. Her goal is to increase membership and participation in ARSCE so we can protect the pension program that City employees enjoy.

### **Joanne Kinsella**

Joanne retired from the City in October 1999. During my 25 years with the City, I worked for the Board of Public Works, Personnel Department, Engineering Department, and ended with Seattle Public Utilities. All my positions with the City were Human Resources related.

I have been Financial Secretary for ARSCE for ten years and Recording Secretary for six years. I've enjoyed the job duties associated with these positions, especially the interaction I've had with many of the City retirees. I've been a member of the ARSCE board for the past twelve years. I am currently a member of the Communications Committee, the Finance and Budget Committee, the Elections Committee, and the Legislation, Pensions and Insurance Committee. I have been impressed with the dedication of the ARSCE officers and Board members watching out for the welfare of the City retirees. If re-elected, I will continue to work with the ARSCE Board and committee members to ensure that we have a strong voice before our Retirement System's Board of Administration regarding retiree issues.

### **John Masterjohn**

John currently serves as President of ARSCE. He was hired by the Seattle Engineering Department in 1966 as a General Laborer, and worked in the traffic division for 16 years as a General Laborer, Maintenance Laborer and Traffic Marking Leader. In 1982, he left the department to go to work for PSIE Local 1239, which represents a large number of City classifications. During his 28 years with Local 1239, John served as a member of the medical committee where they dealt with active and retiree medical plans. He negotiated the 1.5% yearly retiree COLA and the 60% floor for the retirees at that time.

John would like to continue as a member of the ARSCE Executive Board to help with new ideas for retirees and make sure that the City treats retirees with respect and dignity. "I have been attending the retirement Board meetings since I retired in July of 2010, and I am concerned that the City is looking at new ways to adjust the retirement plans. As a member of the ARSCE Board, I would speak in behalf of all ARSCE members and those who will retire in the future. I would appreciate your vote."

*continued on page 5*

Candidates...continued from page 4

### James Mohundro

Jim retired early in 2008 after working for 30 years in finance acquisition and construction or rehabilitation of housing for our low income citizens. This City effort is probably little known in Seattle outside of the (mostly) not-for-profit housing owners and operators, and the City's private and public partners, but Seattle has been a national leader in the provision of housing for those most in need.

His successive experience in the Department of Community Development, the Department of Housing and Human Services, and finally, in the Office of Housing, included financing with City monies, federal funds, Washington State dollars, and both for-profit and not-for-profit lenders and investors, a substantial range of low income housing projects, from single-family homes in residential neighborhoods for special needs tenants to 230-plus unit projects such as the Josephinum in Downtown Seattle. Working with so many different actors, with sometimes divergent needs, helped him develop and sharpen his negotiating skills.

He also managed a 22-year part-time career as an instructor in residential and income property real estate finance at Bellevue College. Jim is a Seattle native with his advent at First Hill's Maynard Hospital.

He has happily lived on Queen Anne for more than 35 years.

Jim has experience with operations and financial investment policies on the Board of the not-for-profit Northwest Resource Associates, and on the Administration, Property and Finance Board of a large, downtown church. He currently serves on the ARSCE Board on the Election Committee and writes a regular column for the ARSCE News.

### Ed Steyh

Ed served the ARSCE Board as an Alternate in 2014. He started working for the City in 1972 in the Citizens Service Bureau. He was one of six people hired to start the Little City Hall program. In 1977, he began working for the Solid Waste Utility in the Engineering Department. He held a variety of positions in Solid Waste and retired in 2003 as the Solid Waste Contract Manager in Seattle Public Utilities. Since retirement, Ed has done some consulting preparing RFPs and solid waste collection contract language for several local jurisdictions. He has also been volunteering with VashonbePrepared, a group of Vashon Island residents who works with the local Fire District in preparing plans and drilling for island isolation incidents. He is interested in being on the ARSCE Board to work for the needs of retired City employees and in encouraging more retired employees to attend ARSCE activities.

## Duffer's Corner

By Joe Matthias



### 2015 and Counting

Another year is upon us. As I've mentioned, probably too many times—although it still amazes me—the years seem to move along just a little bit quicker than I'd really like to see them go. This is the year I turn sixty-seven. I remember when I first started at City Light, I stared at people that age and wondered how they ever made it that far. It's a lot different looking out, from their perspective, at the new breed staring at me in much the same way. They just don't understand, no matter how much I explain to them, that sixty-seven isn't really all that old, and that they need to give me back my walker and go back to playing with their Legos.

This is a pre-presidential election year. That should be important to each of us, retired or not. A new president means a new agenda, new policies, and new approaches to some old problems. Keep in mind that whether we end up with another Democrat in the oval office or a Republican, the shift in this country's approach to our own internal problems, world economics and where we fit in, whether the economy goes up or down and why, all that and more will be uniquely affected by who we choose to put in office come a year from November. Remember that, do your homework on the candidates and vote what you feel is best for the country instead of along party lines, which can often be very counter-productive, although I genuinely understand why they are there. A minimum of a two party system is essential to maintaining a democratic society; just don't get too hung up on it. We've got about a year and a half to figure this out. Let's use every minute to get it right.

This could be, and should be for many of us, the year we take advantage of lower fuel prices to see parts of this country we've been putting off seeing for too long. There are parts of this great land that I've always yearned to visit, I've promised myself I'd see, and things to do I really would like to do sooner rather than later. I think we all have similar lists. And now we have a chance to fulfill some of these. I believe we will enjoy this opportunity for only a short time - this summer and maybe into next year, but eventually gas prices will rise again. It's just a matter of how far. An article last week stated the Arabian cartel is promising gas will never again see \$100 a barrel and I sincerely hope they are right. Even that is a lot higher than I'd like to see it top out. Somewhere deep down though I have this gut feeling they're wrong.

This is the year we should all take the time to reconnect with family and friends alike. Many of us, me included, have let certain family slip for one reason or another. Maybe you are uncomfortable around them; possibly they irritate you. I know many of mine do. Mostly, I think, all of us, we as well as they, are just too lazy and complacent to pick up the phone and make that crucial first, second, and maybe third contact required to reignite family values.

Friends are another matter. Friends are hard enough to come by; really close friends nearly impossible. Both are irreplaceable once they are gone from your life. Pull out the old phone books and surprise yourselves. As you go through it make a few calls to those you regarded most. Often the numbers are no good anymore, but at least you have tried. Sometimes you will reach them only to discover they aren't as interested in renewing old friendships as you are. These you will need to reluctantly let go. But then there will be a few who are elated to hear from you, are genuinely excited about renewing old friendships, and even a few who will admit they had been trying to figure out how to reach you for years. These are the ones that make all the trying worth the result.



I wished all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year last issue and I really hope that was true for you. We had one of the best Christmases we've had for some time. We are looking forward to one more move this year, hopefully our last for some time, probably north toward Arlington. Our list of goals for this coming year is probably longer than we will actually accomplish, but that's okay. I hope each of you has similar plans and goals to meet your unique needs. Keep active, challenge yourselves, and always push a little harder than you know you will accomplish. The rewards here are phenomenal if you really stop and look at them.

Later, Duffer out.

Joe Matthias, Lighting Department (Lineman), Retired

### FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEEDED

The ARSCE Executive Board is searching for a new Financial Secretary. The major responsibilities of the position are:

- Maintaining and updating the Membership Database
- Processing the monthly Accounts Receivables
- Picking up and distributing the mail
- Processing reservations for three annual luncheons
- Sending out quarterly Membership Drive letters to new retirees
- Handling general correspondence
- Assisting the Treasurer

Some training and a computer will be provided, as well as a monthly stipend. If you are interested in this position (or if you can suggest someone who might be), please email John Masterjohn at [president@arsce.org](mailto:president@arsce.org) or call him at 206-362-2245.

## The Computer Guru

By Larry Howell



### Desktop? Laptop? Tablet? Smartphone?

If you are considering buying a new “computing” device, you will likely find that you have entered an electronic maze. I would like to think that I could provide a simplified decision process to help readers of this column select the perfect computing device. Realistically, the best I can do is detail the issues that you will need to consider when selecting the computing device that will best meet your needs.

The first step in the decision process is to establish in your mind how you use or will use the computing device.

The most obvious conclusion you will probably reach after reading this column is that no one solution will fit every user’s needs. Today’s typical user, in fact, will probably have 2 or more computing devices.

Personally,

- A good desktop PC is a must. My desktop PC is the center of my home computer network. I use the desktop to manage/configure the devices on my home network, manage the files I store on a cloud server, and control the file backup on the computing devices connected to my home network.
- A laptop is essential for my mobile computing needs (I am typing this column as I sit drinking coffee at my favorite coffee shop).
- A tablet, such as the Kindle Fire (many other good tablets are also available), provides portable/mobile access to books in digital format (plus the ever present Solitaire, Candy Crush, and other electronic games), and mobile Internet access when an Internet Access point is available (most hotels/motels/coffee shops).
- A Smartphone is the basic/essential communication device.

#### Desktops

If you will use the computer to create documents, edit photos, print documents, browse the Internet, and read/send email, my preferred computer type is the desktop computer.

- Desktop models are appropriate for users who don’t need mobile computing.
- The full size keyboard and a wide selection of monitors (size) are especially useful for users who frequently use applications such as word processing and picture editing.
- Pricing of recommended Windows-based Desktop PCs starts at approximately \$600.
- Lower priced Desktop PCs are available, however PCs priced below \$600 typically use older model processors (slower; less energy efficient).
- Consider computers that use either Intel’s i5 or i7 processors. These processors are faster and more energy efficient than previous processor versions.
- Consider computers with a BIOS that supports the UEFI boot standard. (The Electronics Store Sales Rep may not know what you are talking about, but it is an important feature.)
- Desktops have tended to be more reliable and durable than laptops. Many XP-based desktop computers (circa 2001) are still in use. In contrast, laptops have experienced a useful life of

approximately 3 to 5 years and are much more likely to experience physical damage due to their mobile use.

- Desktop computers are easier to maintain (repair and upgrade hardware) than other types of consumer computers.

#### Laptops

If all of the above features are important to you, but you also need/prefer some mobility, a Laptop computer may be the best choice for you.

- Laptops are battery powered computers small enough to rest on the user’s lap. The keyboard closes over the monitor for transport. My personal preference is a laptop with a 15" to 17" monitor.



- Consider laptops that use either an Intel i5 or i7 processor.
- Consider laptops with a BIOS that supports the UEFI boot standard.
- Pricing of recommended Windows-based Laptop PCs starts at approximately \$600.
- Lower priced Laptop PCs typically use older model processors (slower; less energy efficient). Lower energy efficiency means shorter battery life and higher internal temperature...especially a problem in laptops.
- One of the downsides of laptops is that most of the hardware components of a laptop computer (USB ports, display adapter, processor, etc.) are usually integrated into the motherboard. Failure of any component will require replacement of the motherboard (expensive). With the exceptions of the hard drive and the memory (RAM), most laptops cannot be upgraded.
- Most laptops use on-board display adapters, which usually are less powerful than separate video adapter cards. The on-board display adapters may not meet the minimum requirements for some of the more popular video games...and on-board display adapters cannot be upgraded.
- Laptops typically contain only 1 hard drive, which is not adequate for the File History (backup) feature of Windows 8.1. Purchasing and plugging a micro USB memory key (32 to 64 GB) into one of the laptops USB ports will take care of this deficiency.
- Be sure the laptop has adequate USB ports. I recommend a minimum of 3 USB ports, preferably with at least 1 of the USB ports compatible with the USB 3.0 standard. One port for the memory key: one port for the wireless mouse nano USB transmitter, and one port to connect a USB device (such as an external USB hard drive for system backup).
- One HDMI port, which can be used to connect the laptop to a larger external monitor (may require a special cable adapter, depending on the Monitor) or an HD TV for digital streaming from the Internet to the TV.

- Laptops provide a touchpad that may be used in place of a mouse. I believe most new laptop users will prefer a wireless mouse.
- If the home network includes a wireless printer/scanner, printing or scanning from a laptop is just like printing from a desktop.

#### Tablets

If mobility is the primary concern, you will be entering a rapidly changing maze of computing options. The best advice I can provide in the area of tablets is to check reviews, such as ratings provided by Consumer Reports, CNET and many other on-line resources.

*continued on page 7*

**Desktop? Laptop? Tablet? Smartphone?...continued from page 6**

Customer reviews provided by Amazon.com may also help you decide what features are important to you. I always check the most negative reviews first in order to highlight any deficiencies that may apply to your intended use of the device.

If you have a subscription to Consumer Reports (on-line), I strongly recommend that you read their review of Tablets available at [www.ConsumerReports.org](http://www.ConsumerReports.org)

- If you want a tablet that does it all, and does it well, be prepared to spend at least \$400.
- If you want a tablet mainly for reading with some emailing and surfing the web, a larger screen is better for magazine reading, while a smaller one is more portable, costs less, and is big enough for reading books. Pricing starts at approximately \$100 for Android-based tablets and approximately \$200 for Windows-based computers.
- Connectivity usually requires wireless Internet access. Most cell phone service providers can provide tablets that include wireless data service from the provider.
- Printing from tablet computers may be an issue. If you will need to print documents (airline boarding passes, invoices for on-line purchases, etc.), be sure to confirm that the mobile device you are considering has the ability to send a document to a printer.
- Not all tablets have USB ports or memory card slots.
- Tablets come with touchscreens. Touching the screen with a finger or stylus substitutes for the use of computer mouse and keyboard.
- On-screen keyboards and the physical keyboards provided with tablets may be adequate for occasional input but are really not adequate for the user with good typing skills. I usually end up using the one finger input method or a stylus.
- Tablets seem to be best suited for mobile browsing, mobile email support, and use as an e-Reader...and, of course, Solitaire, Mahjong, and other electronic games.

- With the variety of tablets available today, be cautious if you are considering models that cost less than \$100.

**Smartphones**

Rounding off the personal computing options is the Smartphone.

- Smartphones are cell phones with more advanced computing capabilities and connectivity than basic cell phones. Smartphones typically combine the features of a cell phone with those of other popular consumer devices, such as a personal digital assistant, a media player, a digital camera, a GPS navigation unit, and a basic Internet Browser.
- Connectivity usually includes wireless data service from the provider (Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint and other carriers), wireless Internet access from your home network or access points provided at many local businesses, and Bluetooth connectivity for connection to hands-free devices.
- Depending on the service plan you select from your cell phone provider, Smartphones can provide convenient mobile access to your email account, texting, and apps to help you locate restaurants and other local service vendors...including directions, menus, and ratings.

**Summary:**

1. The first step in the process of selecting a computing device is to decide what functions you need.
2. Selection of a device based primarily on price and mobility may lead to a selection that may not be satisfactory.

Please email any questions you have concerning the topics covered in this article or any other computer questions. Questions submitted to this column may be used (without identification of the sender) as content for this column. Mr. Howell works with other tech gurus to solve a myriad of computer issues that confound even the best of us.

Email your questions to Mr. Howell at [Larry.Howell@arsce.org](mailto:Larry.Howell@arsce.org)

## Old Timers Luncheon Group MTD/DAS/ESD

By Jerry Robertson

The Old Timers Luncheon Group continues to meet the first Monday of every month at "The Old Country Buffet," 4022 Factoria Square Mall S.E., Bellevue, WA at 11:00am.

Remember to mark your calendar for luncheon dates in 2015: March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 14, October 5, November 2, and December 7.

Our December luncheon was enjoyed by twenty-two jolly diners getting into the Christmas spirit. The New Year January luncheon was enjoyed by nineteen of us. As usual, we all enjoyed seeing each other again.

We welcomed Gary Sutton and his wife Sheri at the December luncheon, and we certainly hope they continue being part of this group.

Al Mayor was at the January luncheon and told me he was leaving for Arizona to finalize the sale of his home there. Jerry and Terry Robertson received a phone call while at the January luncheon, informing them that the Samish River was paying a call at their home and they had their own private island. This is an inconvenience that occurs one or twice a year, which we don't enjoy, but have learned to cope with. The water receded in two days and we were back to normal.



Happy Birthday Bud Eickstadt



More Happy Birthdays to (from left to right) Al Mayor, Janice Eickstadt, and Kenny Wong

December birthdays were celebrated by Bud Eickstadt, Marty Etquibal, Martha Hansen, Al Mayor, Don McBride, and Gordy Nungesser. January birthdays were enjoyed by Janice Eickstadt, "Mo" Fukui, Kiyo Hashimoto, "Mac" Moore, and Kenny Wong. A very happy birthday to all of them, and may they enjoy many more!

TAPS: Again we lost another member of our group. Hans Loffler passed away on December 24th. Hans retired from our Department in 1981, after 36 years' service with the City. Hans will be missed by all who knew him. Our condolences to his wife Gertie and his family.

You can reach Mr. Robertson at [oldtimers@arsce.org](mailto:oldtimers@arsce.org)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Don Berard, Police  
 Eric Bondeson, Parks  
 Carol Coryell, Transportation  
 Diana Douglas, City Light  
 Tim Douglas,  
 Finance & Administrative Services  
 Regina Elder,  
 Finance & Administrative Services  
 Edison Esquillo, City Light

Paul Everitt,  
 Finance & Administrative Services  
 Patricia Gorham, Public Utilities  
 Keith Hinman, Public Utilities  
 Neal Komedal, Parks  
 Linda Leong, Human Resources  
 John Little, Sr., Public Utilities  
 Carla Main, Transportation  
 Joy Nishimura,  
 Planning & Development

Jerry Rolstad, Transportation  
 Robert Schmid, Seattle Center  
 Gregory Thies, City Light  
 Yvonne Turner, Seattle Center  
 Maria Udarbe, City Light  
 Susan Wells, Parks  
 Linda Wheeler, City Light  
 R. C. Williams, Law  
 Sue Yamaguchi Wong, Police

### Golden Contributions

Anne Miller, Transportation

### Memorials

Edie Jorgensen, Personnel  
 In memory of Curt Funk

## In Memory

**Note: Names with asterisk (\*) were ARSCE members**

David Bell, City Light  
 Retired: 06/03/97  
 Died: 12/11/14  
 Age: 75

Elsie Bentler, Vested  
 Retired: 02/01/83  
 Died: 12/14/14  
 Age: 93

Herbert Brice, City Light  
 Retired: 03/01/90  
 Died: 12/09/14  
 Age: 83

Cynthia Chamberlain, Beneficiary\*  
 Died: 11/25/14  
 Age: 93

John Cullinane, Seattle Center  
 Retired: 06/01/92  
 Died: 12/10/14  
 Age: 86

Harvey Ferrier,  
 Planning & Development\*  
 Retired: 05/04/90  
 Died: 12/03/14  
 Age: 85

Wayne Gee, Transportation  
 Retired: 06/06/06  
 Died: 11/01/14  
 Age: 70

David Gertsch, Parks  
 Retired: 06/18/03  
 Died: 11/11/14  
 Age: 69

Lester Gillis, Planning & Development\*  
 Retired: 07/01/78  
 Died: 12/03/14  
 Age: 94

Stanley Haberkorn, Transit\*  
 Retired: 02/01/87  
 Died: 10/19/14  
 Age: 90

Jane Hall, City Light\*  
 Retired: 05/01/81  
 Died: 11/27/14  
 Age: 95

Mary Lou Lutz, Beneficiary  
 Died: 11/18/14  
 Age: 89

Dalene Moore, Vested  
 Retired: 10/01/09  
 Died: 10/20/14  
 Age: 67

Cheryl Murray, Seattle Center  
 Retired: 10/30/13  
 Died: 12/22/14  
 Age: 64

Paul Nikolaisen,  
 Executive Services\*  
 Retired: 09/16/98  
 Died: 11/13/14  
 Age: 77

Michael Rossner, Metro Transit  
 Retired: 11/28/98  
 Died: 12/11/14  
 Age: 71

Mildred Ruddell, Vested  
 Retired: 01/01/75  
 Died: 12/10/14  
 Age: 103



Rita Rundahl, Beneficiary  
 Died: 11/27/14  
 Age: 99

Buford Smith, Public Utilities\*  
 Retired: 11/01/87  
 Died: 12/23/14  
 Age: 92

Irma Smith, Beneficiary  
 Died: 12/27/14  
 Age: 88

Edward Stiles, Vested  
 Retired: 03/01/89  
 Died: 11/12/14  
 Age: 88

Mitsuru Tamura,  
 Public Utilities\*  
 Retired: 09/11/09  
 Died: 01/01/15  
 Age: 75

George Tostevin, City Light  
 Retired: 01/02/96  
 Died: 10/23/14  
 Age: 83

Lonnie Voss, City Light  
 Retired: 10/03/07  
 Died: 11/25/14  
 Age: 69

Carol Widhalm,  
 Public Utilities  
 Retired: 08/03/11  
 Died: 11/22/14  
 Age: 64

John Woodworth, City Light  
 Retired: 07/09/08  
 Died: 08/21/14  
 Age: 75

## BOOK NOTES

By Lorry Garratt, Library



### THE ENGAGEMENTS. By J.Courtney Sullivan ~ 2013

A gorgeous sprawling novel about marriage - about those who marry in the white heat of passion, those who marry for partnership and comfort, and those who live together and love each other and have absolutely no intention of spoiling it with a wedding. There are four such intermingled stories and in the background is the fascinating history of the diamond trade and the advertising over a hundred years that made the diamond engagement ring the necessary symbol of our deepest hopes of everlasting love.

### CITY OF JASMINE. By Deanna Raybourn ~ 2014

Set against the exotic lush European outposts of the 1920s, famed aviatrix Evangeline Starke, her eccentric aunt Dove with her multilingual parrot, are circling the globe, gaining admirers and financial security. Evie's dashing husband Gabriel has been dead for 5 years, but when she receives an anonymous and recent picture of him in Damascus she has no choice but to find the truth. It is a wild adventure complete with a priceless artifact, an exotic travelogue, the punishment of desert elements and persons, a little romance and a lot of screwball comedy and dialogue.

### ANY OTHER NAME. By Craig Johnson ~ 2014

Sheriff Walt Longmire is sinking into a high plains winter of discontent when his former boss asks him to take on a mercy case outside his jurisdiction of Absaroka County, Wyoming. A detective in a neighboring county has taken his own life, a shocking surprise to his wife and daughter and colleagues who considered him one of the finest. Walt is about to leave for Philadelphia to welcome his first grandchild, but this death, perhaps connected to three cases of missing women, convinces him to dig into the bloody trail that covers a secret so dark it will soon claim other lives.

### CHINA DOLLS. By Lisa See ~ 2014

In 1938 San Francisco, a world's fair is being prepared for opening on Treasure Island, and this is the story of a friendship of three young Oriental women from different backgrounds: Grace, Helen and Ruby. Each has dark secrets and their precarious careers as singers and dancers are a roller coaster ride. Then Pearl Harbor overtakes the country and brings with it a paranoia about everyone with slant eyes and this overwhelms the beautiful Ruby who is actually Japanese and not Chinese and she is sent to a relocation camp. The war ends and the "Chop Suey Circuit" becomes a national hit in the entertainment world. The story includes the names of many well-known performers.

### A DEMON SUMMER. By G.M. Malliet ~ 2014

Max Tudor, vicar of St. Edwold's church in Nether Monkshire, England, is a former MI5 agent. He is attractive, charismatic, and extremely intelligent and as such is frequently pulled away from his cozy life by his bishop to do an investigation. This time it is the Order of the Handmaids of St. Lucy and Monkbury Abbey. There are rumors of discrepancies in the books, a poisoning from the famous fruit cakes, and finally a murder. Max interviews all the Sisters and all have things to hide. The Abbey houses more than old bones and ancient customs; perhaps even the Holy Grail. This traditional village mystery takes on a modern twist as the Sisters become financially self-supporting, but then some of the money goes missing and Max's former career as a spy blended with his re-invented life as an Anglican priest works well.

### THE MEMORY OF BLOOD; A PECULIAR CRIMES UNIT MYSTERY. By Christopher Fowler ~ 2011

This sly and deadpan plot breathes new life into the genre of the locked room mystery with some zany comedy, lively suspense, a touch of the occult and twists as chilling as London's fog. Arthur Bryant and John May and their quirky team solve a confounding case with dark ties to the British theater and a killer who may want to kill an entire cast.

### WATCHING YOU. By Michael Robotham ~ 2014

Marnie Logan often feels like she's being watched, although she can't quite put her finger on the reason for her fears. Her husband Daniel disappeared a year ago and the police can find no clues. Depressed and desperate over finances, she turns to Joe McLoughlin, a clinical psychologist, who is disconcerted by her unwillingness to talk about her early life which might lead to a breakthrough in her therapy. And in the background, waiting and planning and killing, is a manipulative psychopath.

### TRESPASSER. By Paul Doiron ~ 2011

One reviewer called this "a masterpiece of high octane velocity," and so it is. Maine game warden Mike Bowditch receives a late night call for help regarding a woman who has struck a deer on a lonely coast road. When he arrives at the scene there is blood on the road but the driver and the deer have vanished. Bowditch is reminded of a similar disappearance 7 years earlier as well as his own horrific act of violence. As he pursues this current mystery, wounds are opened and threats from all sides emerge from rich summer residents and Maine locals.

Contact Ms. Garratt at [booknotes@arsce.org](mailto:booknotes@arsce.org)

## Ramblin' Roads

By Alan Brittenham



*Editor's Note: We'd like to introduce a new contributor to ARSCE News — Alan Brittenham. He retired from the City of Seattle in 2007 after serving for 27 years with the Fleets and Facilities Department. Alan wrote a blog for the now defunct "Renton Patch" and runs an Ebay store called "Big Al's This & That." Welcome Alan!*

### The Funeral

I went to a funeral the other day. It was for Al Smith, one of my mentors and buddies at the City of Seattle Charles Street Shop. Al worked in the Truck Shop, outside my door to the Machine Shop, and we spend a lot of time yakking over the years and collaborated on many repair jobs. He was one of those guys who had a smallish - by today's standards - toolbox, but in it was everything he needed to handle any job that came in the door. He was one of those guys who seemed to be moving slowly, but when you watched closely you could see there were no wasted motions, no mistakes being made, and the job progressed smoothly. He was an even-tempered man that everybody respected. It was a good funeral. A lot of the old timers were there standing up for one of their own, like we do.

He retired in 2009 or thereabouts, which means he didn't even get 10 good years in, which means he waited too long to pull the plug and get outta there. I'm learning that at the end of our lives we're all working for ourselves, and the sooner we get started on that, the better it goes.

When I got home from the funeral, I took the very nice obituary piece they put together for Al and put it in the file with the others. I realized that, like most of you, I tend to save these things and I have every obituary from every funeral I've ever attended tucked away in that file and it's getting pretty thick, as you might imagine.

That led to the question, "What is the one thing we always hear at funerals and read in obituaries?" "Remember this person, he/she was special. We will not forget you. You are in our thoughts always." Good sentiments with which I fully agree. But how do we actually do that? If you had a file as full of funeral programs as mine is - how many of them could you name in advance without looking? I can't even remember what I said yesterday.

So here's an idea, and I hope it doesn't sound too morbid. When I kick the bucket, pass off this mortal coil, shoot through, or take my walk on the stairway to heaven or hell (many years from now), I'm going to ask my family to do this one thing for me - take all those obituaries, funeral programs and announcements out of that file and lay them out on a table. Put a sign on the table that says - Here are the folks that went before. These are the family, the friends, and the co-workers... anyone who formed an attachment to this guy for whatever reason strong enough to bring him to their funeral. All of them had a part in making him who he turned out to be, and they deserve to be remembered as much as anybody else, then or now.

Think about it - if everybody did that every time, we would all live forever in the memories of those to come after us, tied together by bonds of love.



## The Film Guy

Some Favorites on DVD  
By Jim Mohundro



### Chasing the Blues Away

Just for laughs, considering the daily dire news of the world and the not-that-dire but mostly daily weather during this season, we can again await the bright new morning of Mariner baseball, and enjoy the odd guffaw and sometimes sneaky message with this modest selection of film comedies.

Think **Bringing up Baby**, **It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World**, even **Bullitt**, as Director Peter Bogdanovitch, Barbra Streisand, Ryan O'Neal and Madeline Kahn bring 1930s' screwball comedy back to life in 1972's **What's Up, Doc?** (94 minutes).

Diane Keaton's **Annie Hall** popularizes the dandy look, and does battle with an angst-ridden (what else?) comic and a lobster in Woody Allen's Oscar-winning 1977 film (93 minutes).

Various sexes are victoriously mixed, matched and mixed up, by and with Robert Preston and Julie Andrews, in **Victor Victoria** (1982, 132 minutes). The underrated Lesley Ann Warren is splendid as a ditzzy moll.

Crime may or may not pay in **Raising Arizona**. Nicolas Cage and



"ANNIE HALL"

Holly Hunter are an Ozzie and Harriett for the 80s in this 1987 film by Joel and Ethan Coen - their third film (94 minutes).

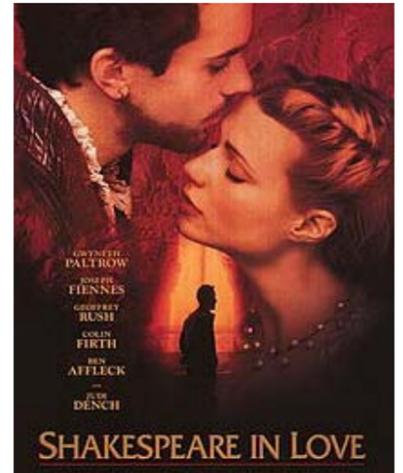
In **Wag the Dog** (1997), spin doctor Robert De Niro and producer Dustin Hoffman stage a phony war to divert attention from a President's peccadillos. It can't happen here (97 minutes).

Forsooth, many scholars agree that Joseph Fiennes, as **Shakespeare in Love** (1998), distracted by Gwyneth Paltrow, Geoffrey Rush and Judi Dench, had neither time nor energy to write all those plays, delegating that work to Tom Stoppard (123 minutes).

The Coen Brothers are at it again. Two Homer/Woody Guthrie odysseys are rolled into one as George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson ask the musical question **"O Brother, Where Art Thou?"** (2000, 106 minutes).

Rupert Everett and Colin Firth are the quintessential British upper class as mistaken identity drives Oscar wild in 2002's **The Importance of Being Earnest** (97 minutes).

*These films have subtitles in English or "close captions" for the hearing impaired, and are around town at video stores that carry decent inventories of the classics, but the films may not be available with subtitles or close captioning from cable or satellite, or from "streaming" resources such as Netflix and Amazon.*



You can reach Mr. Mohundro at [filmguy@arsce.org](mailto:filmguy@arsce.org)

## Parks Department Retiree News

By Alan Hovland

The Irish Tenors Concert was held in December. The concert was a great success financially for the Ballard Northwest Senior Center, especially with the help of Seattle King County Senior Services ([www.seniorservices.org](http://www.seniorservices.org)). These funds help keep the doors open for all senior citizens in Seattle.



Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse

The new Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse is scheduled to open in March at this well-used historic facility. The old clubhouse was demolished in 2013. Paul Wilkenson, the Golf Maintenance Manager, is excited about this much needed renovation.

Note: The 1956 Woodland Park Crew picture features Wendell Mead in the middle of the back row in the

previous issue of ARSCE News. Norm Hudson and Don Johnson are in the middle, front row.

Marian Goddard passed away in September. She worked in Facilities and retired from the Woodland Park Zoo. She then volunteered thousands of hours at the Zoo and travelled on 6 trips to Africa. She walked her dog at Laurelhurst Park for years and reliably reported problems over the years. She has been profiled in past issues of ARSCE News.

A funeral service was held for Bud Connaughton in January. Bud had recently retired from the Carpenter Shop where he had worked his way up to be the crew chief. He was well-known throughout the Department and many present and past Park people attended the service.

Bob Gorski is enjoying his retirement from the Plumbing Shop.

The Park Retiree's Luncheon was surprised by a short visit from Gary Breakfield.

Howard Bogie has been busy preparing to move to Wesley Gardens after years living in West Seattle.

Ballard NW Senior Center Auction: It seems like fundraising for senior centers is a continuous activity. Alan Hovland returns for the 12<sup>th</sup> time as the auction chair for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Auction and Dinner to be held on March 29, 2015.

Mr. Hovland can be reached at [parksnews@arsce.org](mailto:parksnews@arsce.org)



Left to right: Alan Hovland, Gary Breakfield, and Ralph Jellison

Photos from Parks Retirees' Luncheon in January '15



Ted Lockhart and Jim Demonez

### Spring for Seniors



Ballard NW Senior Center  
22nd Gala Auction & Dinner  
Sunday, March 29th

## In a Light Manner

By Frank dos Remedios

We have just completed another good year for RCLEA (Retired City Light Employees' Association). Our luncheons and picnic all had increases in attendance. Once again we scheduled a hike, a biking outing, and a golf tournament which were enjoyed by many participants.

On December 9th, over 120 RCLEA members and guests gathered at the Nile Country Club for a wonderful celebration. It was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The food was delicious, the conversations lively, and the door



RCLEA Christmas Luncheon ~ December '14



prizes provided a bit of early cheer for some lucky individuals. Once again we want to acknowledge and thank the Tap Root Theater for their donation of two tickets to one of their shows as our main door prize selections. We will have the Spring Luncheon on May 4, so save the date and we hope that those who couldn't make it in December, will find it possible to be at the Spring Luncheon.

At the luncheon election results for the 2015 Board were announced. Incumbents Paula Rose and Jane Soder were reelected together with new Board members Dix Fulton, Nancy Robb, and Mary Winslow. At the first Board meeting elections of officers were conducted, they are: President - Jack Kelley; Vice-President - Alice Ekman; Financial Secretary - Sharon DeLong; Treasurer - Dee

## Reflections from Retirement

By Eric Lamers



### My Most Harrowing Ski Experience

It was mid-winter in 1990 and skiing and boarding was good. But snow always seems better far away, so three of us Seattle City Lighters drove to Revelstoke, Canada. This area was still a small development. Most of the area was served by a snow cat which was driven by Clyde who was both Guide and Driver. He used snow roads that he had created. We had already signed up for five days of skiing with him.

On the first morning it was cold with lots of new fluffy powder. Clyde's mandatory talk covering what to do if caught in an avalanche seemed to take forever because we wanted to ski. But, these Avalanche Safety talks have probably saved many lives over the years.



Skier in Powder Snow



Skiing in Pairs for Safety



**Happy Easter ~ April 5th**  
**Word Scramble**



1. ACEHLOOTC \_\_\_\_\_
2. LELBEJNAY \_\_\_\_\_
3. BIABTR \_\_\_\_\_
4. LHAMRMSLWOA \_\_\_\_\_
5. EKSABT \_\_\_\_\_
6. DYSANU \_\_\_\_\_
7. YALOHDI \_\_\_\_\_
8. EPSLAT \_\_\_\_\_

Answers

1. Chocolate 2. Jellybean 3. Rabbit 4. Marshmallow  
5. Basket 6. Sunday 7. Holiday 8. Pastel

Smiley; Recording Secretary - Carol Everson, and Corresponding Secretary - Joe McGovern. Other Board members are Dix Fulton, Mike Knutson, Del Mercure, Gary Moore, Nancy Robb, Paula Rose, Jane Soder, Jim Todd, and Mary Wilson.

RCLEA is planning a day of spring skiing at Stevens Pass on Thursday, March 12th. If you are interested, please contact Mike Knutson at [mwknutson@gmail.com](mailto:mwknutson@gmail.com) or call 206-522-5073 for details and carpool information.

RCLEA is planning a day hike on Friday, May 8th to Blanchard Mountain located on Chuckanut Drive. This is a great year round hike with sweeping views of Chuckanut Bay, Skagit Valley and the San Juan Islands. This moderate level hike is 5 miles round trip. After the hike we plan to drive to The Edison Café located in Bow-Edison for lunch. If interested, please contact Mike Knutson at [mwknutson@gmail.com](mailto:mwknutson@gmail.com) or call 206-522-5073 for details and carpool information.

We want to remind you that RCLEA has established an emailing list where we notify our membership of items of interest between newsletters in addition to City Light's weekly publication of NetWork. If you wish to receive these mailings just send an email to Frank dos Remedios at [fdosremedios@gmail.com](mailto:fdosremedios@gmail.com) asking to be included on our confidential mailing list.

Contact Mr. dos Remedios at [fdosremedios@gmail.com](mailto:fdosremedios@gmail.com)

There are generally no avalanches in forests, but the trees can also be a hazard. For safety we skied in pairs. My partner was about 30 yards to the left of me and somewhat ahead. He could not see me. Suddenly the snow under me gave way. I disappeared below the snow level, upside down into a dark tree well.

In my panic, I needed air and was forced to take a deep breath which sucked my lungs full of powdery snow. The pain of the snow in my lungs was the most miserable pain I ever had. I could not do this again. I just knew that I would die if I could not breathe. Then I remembered Clyde's safety talk. If you can move your hands, cup them and cover your nose and mouth to keep the snow out. I did just that and I could breathe. The pain in my lungs was still there, but I also knew that I would be okay now that I could breathe. I used the branches of the tree to right myself and prepared myself to start skiing again.

When I arrived at the Cat and explained what had happened to me, Clyde told us that the Heli-Skiers across the valley from us had lost two Guides in tree wells in the past two weeks. It is known that tree wells kill almost as many skiers as avalanches do. ♦



**Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8th at 2:00am**



Save the Date!

# ARSCE Spring Luncheon

**Wednesday,  
March 11th, 2015**  
**West Seattle Golf Course**  
**Banquet Room**  
**4470 - 35th Ave. SW**  
**Seattle, WA 98126**

(Ample Accessible Parking)

11:00am – Noon:

No Host Bar & Visit with Friends

**Lunch served at Noon**

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day Buffet featuring Old Fashioned Pot Roast with Vegetables, Horseradish Sauce, Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice Soup and Soda Bread. Holiday Cake with Tea & Coffee, too.



**COST: \$20.00 Per Person**

Reservations due by Wednesday, March 4, 2015

(Cancellations no later than 40 hours prior to the luncheon. Cancellation questions? Call Pam Baer at 206-992-7311.)

Please make your check or money order payable to **ARSCE Spring Luncheon** and mail it with your completed reservation form below.

**Or**, you may register & pay online by simply going to [www.arsce.org](http://www.arsce.org) and click on the "Spring Luncheon" link which you'll find on the home page.



NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending = \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: ARSCE SPRING LUNCHEON**  
**P.O. BOX 75385**  
**SEATTLE, WA 98175-0385**

Thank you for matting your reservation in early, or signing up online early as well.

Invite a friend or two for some special fellowship & a great meal.

Thank You and hope to see You there!

## 2015 MEETING AND PUBLICATION DATES

- Wed. Mar. 11 ARSCE Spring Luncheon; 11:00am  
West Seattle Golf Course  
4470 - 35th Ave. SW, Seattle
- Wed. Mar. 18 Ballots Due in PO Box
- Fri. Mar. 20 Count Ballots
- Tues. Mar. 24 News Deadline (May/June Issue)
- Wed. Apr. 8 ARSCE Executive Board Meeting  
– Elect Officers; 10:00am  
Northgate Community Center  
10510 - 5th Ave. NE, Seattle
- Fri. Apr. 24 Mail ARSCE News (May/June Issue)

**ACTIVE & RETIRED EMPLOYEES ~ YOU'RE INVITED  
TO ATTEND THE ARSCE BOARD MEETINGS.  
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US!**

**Note: Calendar is subject to change by Board approval.**

## Application for Membership: Active & Retired Seattle City Employees

New Member  Beneficiary

Address Change  Dues Payment  Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date Retired \_\_\_\_\_ From Dept. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Encl. \_\_\_\_\_

If still employed with the City, indicate the number of years: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Semi-Annual Dues: \$6.00. January 1 to June 30.

If you wish to have your dues deducted from the check you receive in July, please fill out the following section for the Retirement Office and include it with the rest of this coupon when you mail it to ARSCE. Or apply online at the email address below.

### Active & Retired Seattle City Employees Dues Deduction Authorization

To: The Board of Administration, City of Seattle Employees' Retirement System:

The undersigned hereby authorizes the City of Seattle Employees' Retirement System to deduct from my retirement, beneficiary and/or disability allowance, such dues as are duly established from time to time by the Active & Retired Seattle City Employees (ARSCE). Until further written notice by me to The Retirement System Office, such deduction shall be made annually from my July allowance and shall be paid to Active & Retired Seattle City Employees, P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385.

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Active & Retired Seattle City Employees**  
**P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385 Attn: Pam Baer**  
**Or Apply online at: <http://arsce.org/membershipapp3.htm>**