

ARSCE



Association of Retired Seattle City Employees
P.O. Box 75385
Seattle, WA 98175-0385

www.arsce.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 1100

May/June, 2012

The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees

Volume 39, No. 6



OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Merle Overland

ARSCE was fortunate to again have a great slate of folks interested in renewing their service on the Executive Board, and several who volunteered to stand as a candidate for the Board. I am pleased to announce the results of the recent election that returned **Edie Jorgensen, Joanne Kinsella, Liz Rankin and Bob Sugden** to the Board. **Jim Mohundro** was elected to a three-year term after serving this last year as an Alternate. New to the Board is **John Masterjohn** who was also elected to a three-year term. The Alternate Board members for the coming year are **Ann Beard, Colleen Browne, Ann Miller, and Kathy Ray**. The Alternate Board members participate fully in Board activities and discussions and should a member resign before their term is completed, the Executive Board chooses one of the Alternates to fill the vacancy. Congratulations to all of you, welcome to the Board, and thank you for your willingness to serve ARSCE in this role. These members will be sworn in at our June luncheon and will begin their terms on July 1.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I want to express our appreciation for the efforts of **Sharon Howell** and **Jim Taylor** as ARSCE Board Members. Both chose not to run again for a Board position and we will greatly miss their work on behalf of ARSCE. Sharon was a key player, along with Michele Daly, in arranging all our meetings and luncheons, attending to the all the details of venues, speakers, menus, entertainment, and coordination with Joanne. Jim has served as Chair of the Communications Committee and he will continue as our Webmaster working to update our image, practices and presence in this era of social networking. We can also continue to enjoy Jim's column, Internet Schmineternet, in upcoming issues of this paper. Thank you, Sharon and Jim! Thank you for all your time and effort to help build and strengthen ARSCE and we look forward to your continued involvement in ARSCE activities in the years ahead.

I want to focus attention on an important issue for ARSCE – the need to identify and find a replacement for our **Financial Secretary**. As you know, Joanne Kinsella has served in the capacity for the past ten years and for that we are very grateful. This is such a key role for the organization as it coordinates so many details for the Executive Board and the entire association. You will find an ad for this position on page 3 of this paper. Please consider if this is a role that fits your skills, or talk to ARSCE friends who might consider this as a great volunteer opportunity. There is a monthly stipend that comes with the position. This is a critical need for ARSCE and I need your help in finding someone to fill this role.

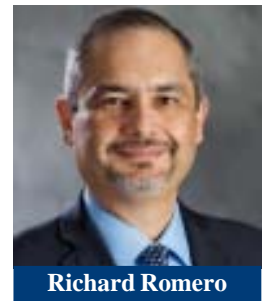
Finally, my thanks to Edie Jorgensen and her Elections Committee for their work in organizing the recent election process. Thanks, too, to those who counted and verified the ballots – Donna Fisher, Larry Mickelson, Pam Lucarelli, Michele Daly, and Barbara Graham.

Don't forget to join us for the Summer Luncheon on June 13th. Best wishes for the rest of the spring season and for a great summer!

Contact Mr. Overland at president@arsce.org

REPRINT

Richard Romero is SMCU's New CEO



Richard Romero

This interview was first published in "7 Principles", SMCU's newsletter and blog on February 3rd, 2012. The author and interviewer were Kevin St. Clair and CJ Kipper, respectively.

After a nationwide search, the Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of Richard Romero as the Credit Union's new Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Romero will become just the fourth CEO in SMCU's 79-year history.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from the University of La Verne in Los Angeles County, California. He is also fluent in Spanish.

Romero started his duties as CEO in mid-February.

We got a chance to chat with him about why he chose SMCU and what he sees on the horizon.

"I knew (SMCU) was the right place for me. My first impression of SMCU was that of a progressive credit union with deep roots in the community and a strong vision for the future. I saw a close relationship between the 7 Principles and my management style and beliefs. I'm a strong believer in the cooperative model and I wanted to make sure I would land somewhere that shared the same philosophies.

We also like a family-friendly city that offers activities for both adults and children. Having worked in Seattle on and off, I was familiar with the city and was excited to return."

Romero has over 24 years of financial services experience having started in the financial services industry in 1988 as a part-time teller at Great Western Bank. Most recently he was the Chief Operations Officer at \$820MM Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union (LAFUCU) from 2004 to 2012. As LAFUCU's COO he led teams responsible for consumer lending, member services, operations, call center, facilities, real estate and business services, commercial lending and information technology.

He sees a strong similarity between SMCU and LAFUCU.

continued on page 5

Inside this Issue

- Page 3 – Opportunities
- Page 4 – Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union/LPL
- Page 6 – Internet Schmineternet
- Page 8 – Ken's Perspective
- Page 10 – Always Beneficial
- Page 12 – Summer Luncheon Reservation Form

YOUR PENSION NEWS

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



Never before have public employees' defined benefit retirement plans been under attack the way they are now. The new code words for these assaults are "pension reform" and "sustainability." Now, with the downturn in the economy and the short term impacts on governmental budgets in the public sector, more and more legislatures and City governments are trying to fix their financial problems by reducing or restructuring their employees' retirement benefits.

The current strategy is to attack public employees and their benefit packages (health care and pensions benefits) as greedy and overpriced. The Seattle Times editorial on Sunday, April 1st, 2012 compared public employees' pensions to non-public employees as excessive. The example given was the early retirement option in Washington State Plan II covering a public employee who has worked for 30 or more years, who has reached the age of 55 years, who would then receive 80% of their retirement benefit. The fact is that exercising this option actually reduces the retirement benefit by 20%. The reason The Times believes this unfair is they are comparing these retirement benefits to those citizens and taxpayers who have no pension. The comparison could create working class warfare between working men and women in the public and private sectors. Pension envy? "If I don't have it you shouldn't either."

The Washington State Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is dealing with the Washington State Legislature's attempt to establish a third tier retirement plan for new employees starting, if passed, July 1st, 2012. One option being proposed by the Legislature will require new public employees hired after the implementation date to enroll in Plan III only. Public employees are currently allowed to choose between Plan II (the defined benefit plan) or Plan III (the hybrid defined benefit and defined contribution plan). Yet another proposal would not allow new employees in Plan II, the early retirement option with reduced penalties. The third "reform" will reduce the excess compensation multiplier (overtime, etc.) from 2X to 1½ X for final benefit calculations.

Now, you may be asking what does this have to do with the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS)? Well, the Seattle City Council has a group called the Interdepartmental Team (IDT) who have been working on a plan to establish a "two tier" pension system for new and active City employees. All the options proposed reduce benefits and risks for the City. This "two tier" proposition could require the City to "close" the current retirement plan (which will increase costs that could increase the unfunded liability of the current plan, by cutting off contributions for new and active employees to the current plan). The current plan will be stressed with the increased liabilities of more employees reaching retirement age.

I do not know if the IDT Committee did an impact study on what effects this "two tier" scheme will have on the SCERS and its ability to keep its promise of benefits to the members of the current retirement system.

The purpose behind this plan is money and to shift pension benefits risks more to the City employees. The savings to the City, itself, would range from \$1.1 to \$2.7 billion over a 30 year period. These are contributions that will be denied to SCERS. With the options of the defined contribution plans, all or part of the risk is shifted to the members of the plan.

I believe this is a bad idea. I hope the City will abandon its pursuit of these retirement plan options. I think the facts will support that this is a bad idea for City of Seattle employees and retirees.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

John Atkinson, METRO
Kathy Barnett, Law
Ticiang Diangson, Public Utilities
Carol Everson, Parks
Julia Kennedy, Library
Donna King, Planning & Development
Larry Works, City Light

Essential Telephone Numbers And Web Addresses

ARSCE: 206.992.7311
(Change of Address/Membership Questions)
E-mail: secretary@arsce.org
Website: www.arsce.org

Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens: 206.684.0500
(Information on available programs/services)
E-mail: seniors@seattle.gov
Website: www.seattle.gov/human_services/seniorsdisabled.mosc

Personnel Department: 206.615.1340
(Benefits)
E-mail: benefits@arsce.org
Website: www.seattle.gov/Personnel/

Retirement Office: 206.386.1293 or 1.877.865.0079
(Retirement Checks/Health & Dental Benefits/General Questions/Change of Address/Tax Withholding)
E-mail: retirecity@seattle.gov
Website: www.seattle.gov/retirement

Statement of Ownership And Management

- 1) Owner and Publisher: The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees
Address: P.O. Box 75385
Seattle, WA 98175-0385
- 2) Title of Publication: ARSCE News
- 3) Frequency of issues: Six (6) issues each year.
- 4) Merle Overland, President
Barbara Graham, Vice President
Joanne Kinsella, Financial Secretary
Joanne Kinsella, Recording Secretary
Judith Flemings, Editor
Lee Sattler, Associate Editor
- 5) Bondholders, Mortgages, and Security Holders: None
- 6) The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees (ARSCE) is a non-profit organization for educational purposes according to section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible. ARSCE dues are \$8.00 each year from July 1st through June 30th. Opinions stated by various writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policy of ARSCE.

Contact us at www.arsce.org
Or telephone us at 206.992.7311



**ARSCE
Summer
Luncheon**



Wednesday, June 13th
at the Wedgwood Broiler in North Seattle
See page 12 for details.

Space is Limited. Register Early!

How to Stay Young

Author: Unknown



1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay “them.”
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. “An idle mind is the devil’s workshop.” And the devil’s name is Alzheimer’s.
4. Enjoy the simple things.
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.
7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it’s family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don’t take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.
10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

HAPPY

Mother's
 DAY
 SUNDAY ~ MAY 13TH

SEATTLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Did you know that as a retired City of Seattle employee, you can start and/or retain a Seattle Management Association membership?

SMA is open to all governmental agency and non-profit employees at all levels. Membership benefits include:

- Outstanding networking and connecting opportunities
- Discounts to SMA programs
- Leadership and managerial skills development
- Excellence in Management Awards Programs

As an associate member, you are assessed a one-time \$15.00 registration fee and annual dues. Dues are prorated depending upon the month of the application (\$5.00/month) for a new associate member. Dues thereafter are \$60.00 per year and due by January 30. All applicants shall pay their registration fee and dues prior to entry into the Association. To download a membership form, go to the web page at <http://www.seattle.gov/sma/>

If you have any questions on this, please contact any one of the board members: Lawand Anderson, J. Paul Blake (SPU), August Drake-Ericson (Parks and Recreation), William Edwards (SPD), Bobby Forch (SDOT), Glenda Graham-Walton, Kathy Peterson (SPU), Karen Tsao, Sandra Wong (Personnel) or email sma@seattle.gov.

Submitted by Cecelia Carter, SCERS Executive Director.

ARSCE DUES REMINDER

ARSCE’s 2013 fiscal year is from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The 2013 dues are payable by July 1, 2012 for all members who **self-pay** their dues by cash or check. Dues for 2013 are \$12.00 per year, or \$1.00 each month.



Please check the mailing label on your *ARSCE News* which notes when your dues expire. If the label indicates “Self-Payment 2012”, your \$12.00 dues are payable by July 1, 2012 for the coming year. If your label indicates “Automatic Renewal 2012”, do not send in any money as your dues will be automatically deducted from your July retirement check.

Please mail your dues to ARSCE, PO Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385. Thank you for your support of this, our organization. If you have any questions regarding dues or membership, or if you need to notify ARSCE of an address change, please contact ARSCE at 206.992.7311.

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 Receivable, picking up and distributing mail, processing reservations for 4 yearly luncheons, handling general correspondence, and assisting the Treasurer. A computer is provided as well as a monthly stipend. If you are interested in this position (or if you can suggest someone who might be), please contact Merle Overland at president@arsce.org or at 206.523.1639.



LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Many ARSCE members currently volunteer. Others would like to volunteer but are not sure what opportunities exist. Space limitations mean we cannot list individual opportunities in the ARSCE News. Please refer to these two extensive websites for volunteering opportunities in the Seattle area: [United Way of King County \(www.uwkc.org/volunteer\)](http://www.uwkc.org/volunteer). This is probably the most comprehensive of the local volunteer opportunity websites. A search of their database using the term “parks” returned 76 different volunteer opportunities; “animal” returned 65 opportunities, “home” returned 141, “senior” returned 50 and “children” returned 595. You can register on the site and arrange to have internet “feeds” sent to you about volunteer opportunities in areas that interest you.

Volunteer Match (www.volunteermatch.org) is another very good comprehensive site with some interesting geographical limit capabilities. Enter your home zip code to start.

From Your Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union/LPL

By Bruce Brundige



Financial Questions Answered

Bruce Brundige, LPL Financial Consultant at SMCU, has been involved in the financial services industry for over 24 years. Here, Bruce answers your financial planning questions.

Q: Why should I work with an investment professional? And what should I expect?

When planning for your future, many factors combine to determine whether you reach your goals. Some people have the time, expertise and energy to make the journey on their own. Most of us, however, could use some help to get us from where we are to where we want to be. Even so, it's natural to be apprehensive about opening up to a Financial Advisor. By knowing what to expect, the real value to be gained by seeking advice is clear.

Navigate a Sea of Information

These days, so much information is available that you should have everything you need to plan for your financial future, right? But how do you decide which information is relevant? How do you put that information into a meaningful framework and develop a workable plan? Most importantly, what do you need in order to feel confident in your financial footing?

The most important role of a Financial Advisor is to actively listen and understand your long-term objectives. Your Advisor should help make sense of the swirling seas of investment data and educate you on your options, working with you to keep you moving toward your goals.

Build a Relationship

In order to address your needs, your Financial Advisor should be interested in building a long-term relationship with you. He or she should listen more than talk and work to understand and anticipate your needs. A trusting relationship with your Advisor, built on communication and responsiveness, will facilitate sound decision making and help you maintain focus on your goals. A seasoned Advisor will have guided others through their careers, into retirement and beyond. This experience, together with an in-depth understanding of your personal circumstances, means your Advisor can help you find solutions to your financial challenges.

Principles First

As the client of a Financial Advisor, you have the right to expect the person you are working with to fully understand the range of products available to you and to present this information objectively. You should also expect them to be upfront with you about how they are compensated for their services. Your Advisor should be part educator and part advocate, always making your goals the priority. When you work with an Advisor who operates according to rock-solid principles, you know that they have your best interests in mind. They will use your success as the measure of their own success.

Consider Us

Is it time you spoke with a Financial Consultant? Contact us at (206) 398-5707 or by email at InvestmentServices@smcu.com with your questions.

Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. Insurance products offered through LPL Financial or its licensed affiliates. LPL Financial is not affiliated with SMCU.

Not NCUA insured | Not Credit Union Guaranteed | May Lose Value



MEMORIAL
DAY

MONDAY
~
MAY 28TH

Here Comes the Sun

By Pam Lucarelli

With summer just around the corner, it's time to spruce up the garden and patio. Garden centers are well-stocked with reasonably priced plants including the perennial Hosta Plantain Lily and Black Magic Elephant's Ear 'Colocasia esculenta' tuber for the shady corners. Annuals that thrive in shade are impatiens and begonias. A hanging basket of fuchsias is perfect for the partial shade of patio and deck.

Container gardening starts with selection of a pot, fresh soil and healthy plants with the same cultural requirements. Wash your existing pots with 1/4 cup bleach and 1 gallon water; allowing them to dry in the sun. Start with good quality soil with proper drainage. Most everything can be put in a planter and moved around your patio to capture the afternoon sun.



Container Gardening for All Seasons recommends for an attractive appearance, try the universally accepted gardening formula: thriller, filler, and spiller. Combine a "thriller" plant with height and visual impact, such as canna, with full, bushy "filler" plants, such as day lily, and "spiller" plants, such as petunias and trailing lobelia to cascade over the edges to soften the container.

Following label directions for water and fertilizer, you can stuff the pots with confidence knowing you'll be rewarded with lush blooms and foliage until the first autumn frost. Plan a visit to your local retail nursery to get started. Knowledgeable staff will assist and soon you will become hooked on container gardening.

Rockery gardening is low maintenance and delivers a punch! Tuck in tiny succulents such as hen-and-chickens, creeping sedum, and burro's tail. Water sparingly, a task you can share with visiting grandchildren. Once in awhile you'll be treated to a Western Fence Lizard basking on warm rocks. Lizards are seldom seen during the cool, wet winter but I'm happy to find several in my rockery during the summer. My housecat enjoys them from a safe distance in her sunny window perch. Cats are a natural predator to this good garden neighbor that feeds on insects. Cold-blooded, lizards regulate their body temperature while sunning and resting on warm surfaces. Who knew traditional gardening could be so easy and fun!

Check out www.weather.com/activities/healthandfitness to enhance your summer activities. It reports on air quality, pollen count and fitness-comfort based on temperature, wind and humidity in your area. Rain or shine, we can enjoy the great outdoors!

GO ONLINE

to www.arsce.org and click on "Events and Discounts" to learn about discounts you may be eligible to enjoy!



Send ARSCE your news, short stories, and poems.

You can send your information to:

ARSCE News

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

Or e-mail your news and information to

arscenews@arsce.org

THE NEXT NEWS DEADLINE IS

May 22, 2012.

(All submittals become the property of ARSCE.)

Parks Department Retiree News

By Alan Hovland

Liz Howell remains at Foss Home and Jesse manages to keep in touch both with the family and Parks retired people like Coy Skinner and Oscar Bray. Jesse also received a call from Betty Daskum, who is doing well.

If it ever turns to spring here, Pat Coupens may return from Arizona.

Norm McCrea, one of our representatives on Whidbey Island, continues to juggle his way back to health and volunteer work. He recently received a letter from Sandra Vanderpol.

Byron Marr continues his long-term treatment and continues taking care of the grandchildren.

Russ Bean spent over a week in the hospital in late February. He is doing well now, and at last report was staying with his brother Gary. Russ might not want to go back to his house if they keep feeding him peach cobbler all the time. Rei Heiskanen delivered a heartfelt get well wish from Russ' friends at the Bay Café.

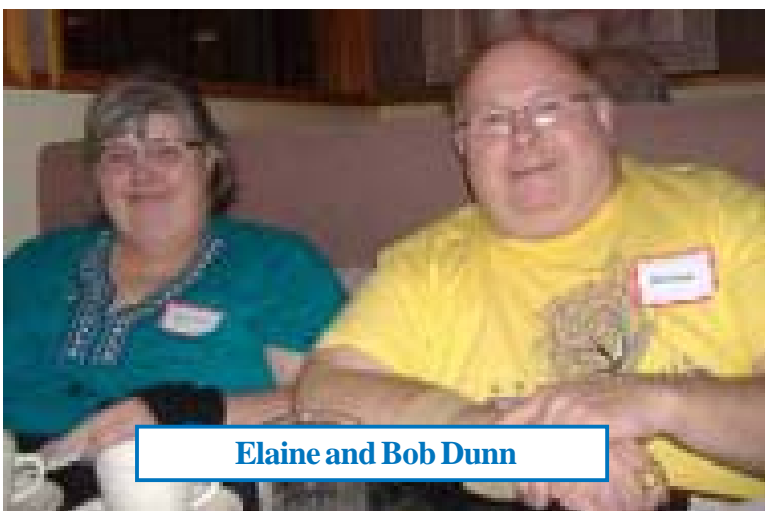
The March Parks Retiree lunch had several people in attendance: Ralph Jellison, Lee Werle, Ted and Diane Lockhart, Gary Breakfield, Vance and Molly Tagart, Rei and Tertiu Heiskanen, Jesse Howell, and the "Bean Brothers".

Sheri and Dick Richards continue to help support the Ballard NW Senior Center.

On March 14th, I enjoyed attending the ARSCE Spring Luncheon at the invitation of Pam Lucarelli. I spoke with Michele Daly, Marian Goddard, and Elaine and Bob Dunn. It took me a moment to recall that the Dunn's worked at the Ballard and Meadowbrook Community Centers and helped out at the Laurelhurst Salmon Bake.



Michele Daly and Alan Hovland



Elaine and Bob Dunn

I continue to recover from all the work of the Ballard NW Senior Center Auction held the last Sunday in March. It was a very successful event because of the planning and hard work of the staff, the many volunteers, and the many generous people who attended the fun event. Pictures of the auction are on www.ballardseniorcenter.org and a great article about the auction appeared in the *Ballard News Tribune*, www.ballardnewstribune.com in the March 14th issue.

Don Allen spent three wonderful weeks in Hawaii with a crew from the Parks Department including Craig Eggleston, Steve Tiامي, Steve Brix, Warren Marbrough and Mark Sears. A great time was had by all.

Mr. Hovland can be reached at parknews@arsce.org

SMCU'S NEW CEO *continued from page 1*

"From a philosophical perspective, LA Firemen's CU has a strong sense of responsibility toward its membership and stays true to the core philosophy of credit unions. Both LAFUCU and SMCU are great examples of the true cooperative model. Both have roots in serving municipal employees and both are very active within their communities."

For the last 12 years, Romero has worked in the credit union world having been hired as the Director of Branches at Telesis Community Credit Union in 2000. He admitted that he didn't really appreciate the difference between credit unions and banks until he made the switch.

"I'll be honest, I was recruited by a former colleague, and at the time I had no idea what a credit union was. I didn't really get it until I did some research and better understood the cooperative model. After talking to some colleagues that had landed in credit unions, I found that their basic philosophy of serving members had a close relationship to what I was used to. I was eager to get back to the basics of serving people versus hard selling and profit at any expense."

He was subsequently promoted to Vice President at Telesis and took that experience to LAFUCU in 2004. He believes that having a wide range of experience will help him lead SMCU.

"I spent the first part of my career in the branch network, working the front lines with customers, and built a strong foundation for customer service. As I transitioned into the credit union world and moved up in my career, I began to build a strong administrative background as well as very strong leadership skills. My recent experience with the Los Angeles real estate and economic markets has prepared me to deal with the unexpected and extreme. This along with a strong background in retail banking, lending and technology make me feel well prepared to lead the team at SMCU."

Romero understands that the job won't be easy. The new realities of the financial world have changed the landscape for everyone.

"Economic pressures, both seen and unseen, will challenge all financial institutions. On top of economic pressures, regulatory changes that are sometimes well intentioned but not always thoroughly thought through will also present challenges. Add those to increased competition for wallet share by all financial institutions and everyone will be forced to perform at a higher level while keeping expenses under control.

Even with these challenges, he feels that SMCU is in a prime position for growth and is ready to make a difference.

"I believe now is the time for cooperatives, such as credit unions, to really stand out and become part of the solution. Serving the underserved and looking for opportunities to provide services that are affordable, fair and competitive is what the public needs and SMCU is primed to deliver."

SMCU is excited to bring Mr. Romero onboard, and we wish him a long and successful career with Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union.

Mr. Romero is preceded by former SMCU President and CEO Bob Harvey. After almost 19 years at the helm of Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union, Mr. Harvey announced his retirement, effective last April.



Flag Day
~
June 14th

INTERNET SCHMINETNET

By Jim Taylor, ARSCE Webmaster



Technology is Changing and Schminetnet is Too!

This edition of Schminetnet is a departure: it's mostly about me! But it could be about you...read on.

Perhaps the famous line should now read, "This isn't your grandmother's Internet anymore"; or rather your older sibling's Internet. Originally the Internet was a defense department project to connect research computers at remote sites. About thirty years later as the Internet became a widespread phenomenon accessed by the general public, and to which hundreds of millions of computers were attached, we saw the development of graphical web browsers such as Netscape and Internet Explorer, and over the last ten years or so we have seen accelerating development of new uses for the Internet and the World Wide Web (remember, the Web and the Internet are not the same thing). Without being too much of a stickler for timing, let's review some of the more important changes.

1. Technological convergence. Ten or twenty years ago there were predictions that we would soon be able to browse the Internet, make phone calls, watch TV and compose documents all on one device, that we would be able to communicate with this device via keyboard, voice or touch, and that we would be able to do this whether we were physically connected to the Internet, or not! This has all come to pass, and even more. Google is the present king of convergence, or integration, as it integrates its email, phone, social networking and many other Internet-based applications and provides a Google operating system (Android) to make this integration happen even more smoothly.

2. Using the integrated technology of today is easier and more transparent. There are two main elements here: a. searching and b. the development of smart phones.

a. Searching. Today's search engines have been refined to such a degree that fabulous results are nearly always easily obtained. Whether you enter "Grand Canyon" or a relatively complex search query, such as "How fast does the Colorado River flow through the Grand Canyon" you get usable results, often in less than a second. Let us not forget the other reason searching is so speedy and effective: countless people have created amazing information resources for you to use at no cost. This has really changed the world: who needs the Yellow Pages anymore? If you need traffic info do you wait for it to be provided, or do you get it when you need it? If you need bus timetable info, do you go searching for that rat-eared paper schedule, or do you plan your trip on the Internet? If you want to find out where your family came from, do you spend weeks corresponding with libraries and church parishes, or do you find it on the Internet? Need to know the best prices on food, cars, clothes or just about anything? There is no place like the Internet to comparison shop without driving around. You get the point I am sure.

b. Smart phones: touch screens, mobility and pocket-sized. Steve Jobs was indeed a visionary – but let's face it, Chester Gould predicted smart phones way back in the 1950s; only Gould called them Dick Tracy's two-way wrist radios. Thanks to Jobs and Apple those wrist radios came to fruition as smart phones. And thanks to the need to have a small device be capable of not only being a phone, but being a device that can access the Internet, everything became easier to do. What once required a mouse may now be done with a swipe of your fingers. Just type in your search or speak it to your smart phone. What required an Internet connection can now also be done over the cellular network. Your GPS application is on your phone, so you'll never be lost as long as your battery is charged. (This is the weakest point about smart phones – battery life is short.) If your smart phone knows where you are, it can direct you to the nearest subway, restaurant or hospital. Oh yeah, and you can make phone calls, take photographs, record your thoughts, and play your favorite music.

The smart phone technology has been exported to tablet computers, which to my mind come in two varieties: a. larger, faster

smart phones or b. specialized devices, such as the Kindle or Nook for reading e-books. The iPad is the best-known tablet computer, and seems yet to be an incomplete concept – why would I want to carry a camera that way, or use a tablet's virtual keyboard to create a document? However, I don't own one, so I haven't really experienced the benefits and drawbacks.

3. Much of today's Internet content is created by users like us. The videos on YouTube, the articles in the Wikipedia, the postings and pictures on Facebook, the vacation narratives and political commentary on blogs, and the great majority of websites have been created by ordinary people throughout the world. Though you may look at the *New York Times*, CNN or Fox News, you may also find yourself following the tweets of an ordinary Egyptian in Tahrir Square, the blog of your neighbor or the electronic newsletters of various companies and politicians. The Internet is now a place where everyone can initiate the sharing of information.

4. With the development of wireless technology and smart phones, the Internet is ubiquitous. This has affected our assumptions about life and how we behave. We assume everyone has email and can access the Web, and are surprised when this is not true. We also assume that wireless access to the Internet is more likely to be available than not. I'm sure you could list many other ways in which the Internet has changed, and many other ways in which it has affected your life, and the life of virtually everyone on the face of the planet. Here's an interesting exercise: write down how the Internet has changed your behavior compared to the days before you were "connected." These changes are the context for the future of our technological environment and *Schminetnet* itself.

Whither Schminetnet?

While I hope it is entertaining and informative to read about topical websites, anyone can find them with just a Google search and a little, very little, patience. Additionally, the changing nature of the Internet, notably its integration with mobile devices and the prevalence of sharing through social networks, seems to call for a different approach in *Schminetnet*. It can't be a technology column that reviews new electronic doo dads. I don't buy most of those doo dads, and I am not working for a big metropolitan paper that will buy them for me. (Hey, I'm not working at all!)



Internet Cool: Share Your Internet Experiences

So, as the Internet is always changing, this column is changing also. I'll continue to point out some useful, crazy, artistic, unusual and otherwise intriguing websites; but also I'll be on the lookout for cool ways people use the Internet in their lives and report them to you as I find them. This will be a new occasional sidebar to *Schminetnet* called Internet Cool; watch for the first one, about using your cell phone for free, in the next *Schminetnet*! In the meantime, if you have had a cool experience using the Internet, something that was really useful in your life, please share it with me. It will become a candidate for Internet Cool. Send your cool experiences to me at webmaster@arsce.org, and thanks in advance.

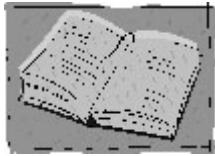
Migrating into the Googlesphere

Like many folks I have changed my email address a number of times over the years. In several cases my address has been provided by my Internet Service Provider (ISP). The problem with this arrangement is that should one change one's ISP, one's email address must also be changed. For years it has been possible to establish an email address not linked to a specific ISP. Hotmail, Yahoo, MSN (now Windows Live Mail) and Google (Gmail) are of such a type. Gmail and Windows Live Mail have the additional advantage of being closely integrated with an operating system, Microsoft Windows and Android respectively, and with Microsoft and Google software applications as well. I happen to have an Android smart phone, and synchronizing this with Windows Live Mail doesn't work so good folks, so the wife and I (she doesn't mind being called "the wife" now and then, and now and then I ignore the rules of grammar) are moving to Gmail. This will also allow us to be more closely integrated with the vast array of cool Google applications, notably Google Voice. Though others use the term differently, I call this world of Google developed technology the Googlesphere. There are those of you who are already there – we are kind of trailing the pack in this regard. The wife and I will report on our experience migrating to the Googlesphere in the next *Schminetnet*.

So that's it for now. See you next time from the Googlesphere.

Write to Mr. Taylor at webmaster@arsce.org

BOOK NOTES



By Lorry Garratt, Library

THE BUDDHA IN THE ATTIC. By Julie Otsuka (2011)

This is a poetic chorus of thousands of Japanese women who came to this country as “picture brides” a century ago. They came to hard work and often brutality, to husbands they had married sight unseen who primarily wanted their labor and wages and sons. They were not accepted or honored or particularly even liked by most of the white women they served with loyalty and care. And in the end of this slight volume, a war has begun and they are rounded up and sent to camps, leaving behind decades of toil. This is a haunting and stunning reading experience even for the reader who claims familiarity with this history.

AMERICAN ASSASSIN. By Vince Flynn (2010)

For years CIA agent Mitch Rapp has served his country with ruthless efficiency. Here is the beginning — Rapp’s first assignment that turns a green rookie into the most hardened and revered counterterrorism operative in the world. He becomes a member of a clandestine group formed to meet the burgeoning threat of terrorism — a group of men who do not exist.

A TRICK OF THE LIGHT. By Louise Penney (2011)

Chief Inspector Gamache is called to a tiny Quebec village where he finds the art world gathered. There are deaths, subtle nuances, a world of shadow and light and the truth is nothing that it first seemed. There are deeply felt emotions in this classical crime story with an Agatha Christie ending — all the characters gathered together in one room.

THE REMBRANDT AFFAIR. By Daniel Silva (2010)

A hypnotic thriller with nonstop action bringing back Gabriel Allon who has retreated to Cornwall with his beautiful wife and partner. His seclusion is interrupted by an eccentric London art dealer, a brutally murdered art restorer, and a stolen Rembrandt. But it is more than a priceless art loss — there are deadly secrets connected to the painting and even deadlier men who will do anything to keep them. The top intelligence agencies of the U.S., Britain, and Israel are drawn into the global pursuit.

MOONLIGHT MILE. By Dennis Lehane (2010)

Amanda was 4 years old when she vanished from a Boston neighborhood. Angela Kenzie and Patrick Gennaro, married investigators, found her and returned her to her neglectful and drug-addicted mother. Amanda, now 16, is gone again and Kenzie and Gennaro are on the case again, but this time it is into a world of drug dealers, identity thieves and Russian gangsters. Hair-raising from the start, but also includes the age old questions of right and wrong.

THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN. By Kate Morton (2008)

A complex mystery that begins when a small girl is abandoned on a ship headed for Australia in 1913. Almost a hundred years later the answers to all the puzzles are found on the Cornish coast by Cassandra, the granddaughter of Nell, the name given the little girl by the kindly couple who took her in and raised her. This is an imaginative, lush escapist read.

THE NEIGHBORS ARE WATCHING. By Debra Ginsburg (2010)

Set against the background of the deadly 2002 wild fires that forced the evacuation of half a million San Diego residents, this novel explores the dark side of suburbia where everyone has something to hide. The teenage daughter he secretly fathered with an ex-girlfriend shows up at prosperous restaurant owner Joe’s house. She is pregnant and this begins a chain reaction and domino effect that spirals into deaths, other secrets, and a quite unexpected ending.

THEN CAME YOU. By Jennifer Weiner (2011)

The lives of four women come together in an insightful and often heartbreaking way. Annie is happily married with two sons, but money is tight. India is older, successful, and after a hard life she unexpectedly falls in love and marries Marcus, a billionaire, but can’t have the baby she wants. Jules is a beautiful Princeton student who makes a sacrifice to help her addicted father. And Bettina, Marcus’ adult daughter, distrusts India and tries to separate them. Their enmeshed lives make a most satisfying story.

Contact Ms. Garratt at booknotes@arsce.org

In Memory

Note: Names with asterik (*) are ARSCE members

Richard Larson, Engineering*
Retired: 3/91
Died: 12/14/11

Jeanne Lee, City Light*
Retired: 4/83
Died: 2/12

Walt Sickler, City Light
Died: 2/12



Golden Contributions

Frances Bourassa, Beneficiary
Jim Coover, Engineering
Bud Eickstadt, City Light
Judith Flemings, Dept. of Human Resources
Robert Flemings, City Light
Bob Graham, Engineering
Pam Lucarelli, Parks
Anne Miller, Transportation
Merle Overland, Personnel
Kenneth Rutgers, Engineering
Alexandra Soldano, Library

My, My, How Things Have Changed

By Joe DeVaux, Retiree, Engineering, Class of 1982

Woo Hoo! Come May 1, 2012, I’ll have been retired 30 years. What a great 30 years it has been. As I look back to 1946, I can’t help but think of some of the changes which have taken place.

Did you know that in 1946 all City employees had to live within the City Limits? It was eventually relaxed for the Police and Firemen, then sometime later, to everyone.

Did you know that all City employees had to sign a Loyalty Oath to the United States of America and to list all organizations to which they belonged? This was during the Communist scare about the 1949-50 time frame. I know of one personal friend who refused and was fired.

Did you know that we never had medical coverage until around 1955? I still have my Group Health Booklet showing I paid \$10.50 per month in 1953 for a family of four.

Did you know that we didn’t have Social Security until around the mid-50’s? I recall my contributions of 5% to our Retirement Plan and then another 4% to Social Security really took a huge chunk from our paycheck.

I’m sure that most of you recall that ALL City jobs and promotions were based entirely on Civil Service Examinations with little, if any, exceptions.

These are just a few of my memories from years past. I’m sure there have been many other changes over the last 30 years of which I am not aware. My wife, Helen, and I are doing OK. We’re both 88 and enjoying our retirement.

Thanks and praise to the ARSCE for what has been accomplished. Keep up the good work.

I’d be happy to hear from some of our old timers.

You can email Mr. DeVaux at joedeaux@hotmail.com

Ken On Durability

By Ken Hunich

What some students wrote when their teacher assigned them to use metaphors in their composition assignment:

- *She grew on him like she was a colony of E. coli, and he was room-temperature Canadian beef.*
- *She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before he throws up.*
- *Her vocabulary was bad as, like, whatever.*
- *Her hair glistened in the rain like nose hair after a sneeze.*
- *He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant, and she was the East River.*
- *McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag filled with vegetable soup.*

What We Want ~ When we buy something, especially something expensive, what are we generally looking for? I believe most of us would say we want a product that is well made with sturdy construction, and is put together carefully so it will stand up well, and it will have the long life we expect. I don't think many of us want to buy something flimsy and poorly made which will not last long when used. But good construction costs more than flimsy construction and that is why we sometimes buy "cheap" things. If we use it only three times a year, instead of daily, as a professional user would, it may be best to buy what costs less. We expect what we bought will get the job done and hold up under our limited use.

Yes, I believe most of us want to buy the best durability we can afford. But our actions, in fact, don't bear this out; what we say we want and what we buy are different. People who sell to us know this. They don't pay attention to what we say we want; they cater to what we buy. And, after all, that's what it is all about, making the sale.

Cars We Buy ~ I frequently reflect on what we say and do. This incongruity is apparent when I drive past cars in traffic. Some "plain Jane" cars can get people from one point to the other safely. But those cars won't have amenities like sound systems whose low notes can vibrate car windows in the vicinity. That they have their windows closed doesn't seem to effect the loudness of sound they hear in their cars.

The driver of the offensive car seems to be proud of this noise; he may likely feel he is "cool" and envied by all those he encounters. This likely gives him a sense of increased stature and pride. Actually, most of us will instead conclude he is an immature adult, infatuated with his annoying toys... and who now must be hard of hearing.

So why do people buy plain cars? I suspect it is because the owner hasn't the money to buy a luxury car. But the plain car likely gets better gas mileage than the fancier cars because it is smaller, lighter and doesn't have a high-powered engine, thus making it the cheapest way to get from point A to point B.

I also see luxury cars on the road. They look attractive from any perspective. But I note none have any bumpers, you know, those silvery bars across the front and back of all vehicles they used to make. The chromed bumpers glistening in the sun, were on the car to prevent car damage in moderate contact with other objects... when you "bumped" something. This might be the contact you made against the wall at the front of the parking stall, or when you hit a post behind your car while maneuvering out of the parking lot, etc.

Think of it, the front and back of your car is now as vulnerable to expensive damage as the outside of the doors when contact is made there.

Then I think of getting into an open space on the street between cars already parked at each end of the space. I can remember how I used to park in those spots: I get part way in, and then make small drives forward and backward to get parked correctly. I would slowly back up until I

made contact with the car behind me, turn my wheels, and drive forward until I contacted the car in front of me. There were many more back-and-forth moves necessary. If I came back to my car and found there was a different car at one end of my space, the driver of which had taken the extra room I had left between cars. He must have done that to make driving out easier for him, but not for me.

At that point I would have changed his first name from what his mother had given him, to one he would likely not want to be used or mentioned in mixed company.

The Results ~ But now, without bumpers, front and back contacts are the same as though one of the nicely painted door panels had been grazed. The pretty painted surface — where the bumpers used to be that bends and curves gracefully into the body lines — are now likely scratched and dimpled by normal bumping.

It's hard for me not to have samples of the paint from other cars I have met. Nor can I forget others who left lasting impressions.

So, it seems that people are more likely to buy cars that are pretty rather than practical... the ones that you can't buy nowadays. What you can or cannot buy changed gradually. The buyer told manufacturers what they wanted on the cars by which ones they bought.

The manufacturers got the message and made the cars that sold best. That included the ones *not* having bumpers.

- *A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect."*

"Really," answered the neighbor, "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty."

- *My first job was working in an Orange Juice factory. But I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.*

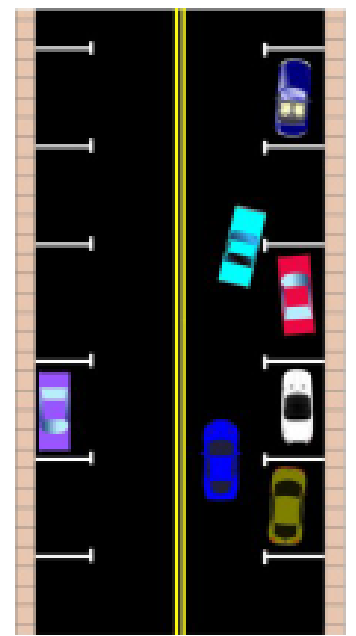
- *No one has ever been shot doing the dishes.*

- *Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.*

- *Why do violinists stand for long periods outside of people's homes?*

They can't find the key and they don't know when to come in.

You can contact Mr. Hunich at kenhunich@arsce.org



Complete Our Circle



**Join ARSCE today as a Retiree or a Beneficiary.
If you are still working, join us as an Associate Member.**

Application on Page 12.

Old Timers Luncheon Group MTD/DAS/ESD

By Jerry Robertson

The Old Timers Luncheon Group continues to meet the first Monday of each month at the “Old Country Buffet,” 4022 Factoria Square Mall, S.E. Bellevue, WA, at 11:00am. This year’s dates noted below:

May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 11, October 8, November 5, and December 3.

We had a group of nineteen at the March Luncheon. Tom Peters and Orrin Cox were there and it was great to see them back with us. Tom had joined us at an even earlier luncheon. We always have an enjoyable time visiting with one another and remembering, all the good times that we enjoyed while working.

A February birthday was celebrated by Marcia Makasini. March birthday celebrants included, Reiner Graumann, Gordon Hirai, Paul Nikolaisen, and Alberto Quan. Best wishes to all of them and may they enjoy many more.

Everyone lamented on how long the winter-like weather has lasted. We are all worried that before long we will have missed the summer and will be into the fall season. The past fall, winter, and spring have been really crazy, even for Western Washington. Maybe, we are in for a very delightful summer. Whatever occurs we will enjoy it, no matter what happens.

Joe and Lillian Yamamoto have been preparing for their annual pilgrimage to the Columbia River to fish for Shad. Joe said they may not be making as many trips as before, due to the high gas prices. I do know they both enjoy these trips and are able to renew old friendships at the camp ground.

We continue to invite those of you who retired from the Department and have not attended the luncheons, to come and join us. We really would enjoy seeing and visiting with you at the luncheons.



Marcia Makasini

Happy Birthday!



Gordon Hirai and Alberto Quan

You can write to Mr. Robertson at oldtimers@arsce.org

Fellowship All Over Town



Engineers Luncheon: Retired County and City Engineering people meet for lunch quarterly. Call Barbara Graham @ 206.525.7859; or John Randall @ 206.723.4118; or Ted Ormbrek @ 206.522.7867; or Joe Curulla @ 425.643.0309 for info.

City Light Line Crews & Friends Breakfast: This group meets at Denny’s at North 155th St. and Aurora Avenue N. on the first Thursday of the month at 8:30 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 Frank dos Remedios 206.363.1938 or go to www.rclea.net

Retired Range Service Employees meet at the Blue Star Restaurant, 4512 Stone Way North, Seattle, at 8:30 AM on the second Wednesday of each month.

Seattle Transit Breakfast (North End): This group meets at Denny’s at 155th Street and Aurora Avenue North every Tuesday at 7:00 AM. Contact Vern Brenden at 206.784.6907.

Transit Retirees (South End): Meet at the Burien Elks Club located at 14006 First Ave. So. on the third Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM for breakfast. Contact Al Ramey at 206.243.8504 or Whitey Rickert at 206.264.7131.

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. Contact General Seymore at 360.893.6759 for information.

METRO Retirees’ Lunch: This group meets at 11 AM the second Tuesday of Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., and Nov. at Crazy Moose Casino, 22003 66th Ave. West in Mountlake Terrace. At 11 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 7:30 AM. Contact Dave Carter at 206.910.8311.

Old Timers Luncheon Group MTD/DAS/ESD. This group meets at 11 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 11 AM at the Denny’s Restaurant located at N. 155th St. and Aurora Ave. No. 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. Contact Jesse Howell @ 206.282.5338 for further information.

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 524.7837.

ALWAYS BENEFICIAL

By Renee Hubbard Freiboth, Benefits Manager
City of Seattle Personnel Department



You and Your Doctor: Building a Partnership (Part 2)

Your regular doctor – also called your attending or primary care physician – recommends and administers your preventive care, treats your illnesses and injuries, and recommends a specialist when you need one. Building a relationship with this important member of your health care team begins with good communication.

This article is the second in a series of three “Absolutely Beneficial” segments on building effective relationships with your physicians:

- Before your visit – in the March/April issue, we covered how to plan for an appointment and what to bring with you.
- During your visit – in this issue, we discuss how to best handle what happens during your appointment.
- After your visit – in the July/August issue, we’ll talk about what to do after an appointment.

During Your Visit

To give you the best possible care, your doctor needs clear and complete information from you, and you need the same from your doctor.

- Tell your doctor anything you can about your symptoms. Offer as much information as you can. Don’t simply wait for the doctor to ask you. And don’t be shy about giving personal information because you feel embarrassed. Mention even small things since they might matter. Let your doctor decide what is and isn’t important.
- Answer any questions your doctor asks fully and honestly. Your doctor may want to know if you have had any problems with your joints, your bowel or urinary habits, or sexual function. You may also be asked about headaches, chest pains, shortness of breath, indigestion and other symptoms.
- Discuss your health and family history with your doctor.
- Ask the questions you brought with you and any new questions as they come up.
- Be sure you understand your doctor’s answers. Ask questions again if you need to, and write the answers down.
- Ask your doctor to write out any instructions for you. Before you leave, read them to be sure you understand them. If you think a drawing would help, ask for one.
- If it is appropriate, ask your doctor for brochures or other materials such as CDs, DVDs, tapes and Web addresses.
- If your doctor recommends a specialist or a test or a procedure at another location, be sure you know who will make the appointment — you or the doctor’s office staff. Make sure you have any referral papers and contact information that you may need.
- If your doctor prescribes a medicine, make sure you know:
 - the medicine’s name
 - what it is meant to do
 - exactly how you are to take it
 - if there are foods or other medications to avoid while taking it
 - if you should expect side effects and, if so, what they are
 - if you can substitute a less expensive generic for a brand-name drug
 - if you should refill the prescription and, if so, how many times
 - what you should do if you miss a dose or take an extra dose
- Ask what comes next. Will you need a follow-up visit or phone call to the doctor?

Some More Thoughts About Prescription Drugs...

When your doctor prescribes a medicine, you can play an important role in making sure the drug prescribed is right for you:

- Tell or remind your doctor about any prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, herbal remedies, or supplements you may be taking.
- Mention any allergic or other reactions you have had to drugs.



The View from the Buses

By Paul Pioli

Dave Luttinen is taking two psychology classes and a Spanish class this quarter, and is spending time in Spain. He will be off visiting one of the Canary Islands, then off to Paris, then Rome. While Dave is doing all this, his wife is home attending to the cats. We got word from **Dale Bartz** who let us know he experienced his first earthquake in the Philippines. It was a 5.8. His wife and servants ran out of the house; true to his nature, Dale just walked out and it was all over. There were some aftershocks, but they were mild.

So we’re retired — what we do with our time? **Al Ramey** is still driving for METRO, part-time. Total driving time from when he first started driving is 59 years. **Vic Kaufman** gives time with the USO at Sea-Tac Airport. Saul Saldana fills his time working at local food banks. Myself, I am driving for Horizon-Gray Line, spreading my joy to many unsuspecting passengers. Also, my wife said I wasn’t staying at home driving her nuts all day.

RIP - The 587 newspaper indicated that **Joe Seisling** passed in early February. Before coming to Seattle Transit/METRO, Joe was a member of the Enumclaw Police Department. After several false starts, a military honors service was held for **Michael Rounds** on March 2nd at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent. **Shirley Brady**, wife of **Don Brady**, passed and her services were held on March 17th. A notice in The Sunday Times about **Lillian Rafter**, wife of **Ed Rafter**, indicated she passed at the age of 94.

Send your news to Mr. Pioli at busview@arsce.org



Sunday
June 17th

If you take several medications regularly, consider making a card for your wallet that outlines what you take each day, how much you take and when you take it. That will make it easier for you to give the information to your doctor or pharmacist, and can help emergency medical personnel if you ever need their assistance.

Reminder For All Retirees:

Has your address or name changed? Do you want to update your beneficiary information? You’ll need to communicate new information to the Seattle City Employees Retirement System Office in writing. A number of forms are available online at www.cityofseattle.net/retirement/. If you have any questions about what information you need to provide to the Retirement Office, contact them at 206-386-1293.

You can reach Ms. Freiboth at benefits@arsce.org

Home Sweet Home!

By Bill Kruller, Retiree,
Seattle Public Utilities

“There is no place like home! In the “Wizard of Oz” Dorothy gave much fame to a statement like that.

Prior to the time I retired, I envisioned that my wife, Grace, and I would travel far and wide at least once each year. After eight years of my retirement, we have made four traveling excursions. Each trip had the purpose of attending a special event. Never did we travel for the enrichment of “seeing the world”.

In my years in the Air Force, I had the benefit of visiting North Africa and Southern Europe. I could not share that with Grace. She had to stay home and attend to our offspring, who were toddlers. They did stand at the airfield fence and wave to me as I left.

I was a co-pilot in a bomber with six jet engines and ten disposable “take off assist” rockets strapped to the fuselage of the airplane. It had a crew of three consisting of the first pilot, the co-pilot (me) and a navigator/bombardier. Each Thursday morning four of these airplanes left Savannah, Georgia and flew to Bermuda to meet a re-fueling tanker. If the primary three re-fueled successfully, the fourth returned to Savannah.

The successful three flew to the Azores west of Portugal, met another tanker to re-fuel again. We then flew to Casablanca in North Africa. The next day we became a crew “on alert” with a nuclear bomb in the back and a route to Russia. We had practiced the route for several days in a simulator. With us in the cockpit was a bag full of Arctic survival gear for each of us in case the worst should happen to us. Friday, three other airplanes and crews flew back to Savannah.

After a week “on alert” we were relieved of duty for a week and flown in a propeller-driven transport airplane to enjoy a week in southern Europe. So I enjoyed travel I could not share with Grace.

The third week we were back “on alert” and after being relieved flew back to Savannah. The rotation sent each crew on these trips about once every six months. (A B-47 bomber sits on the lawn of the Boeing Flight Museum.)

So why have we not lived up to my expectations of exploratory travel once each year of retirement? I think it is because, “There is no place like home!”

We live on two and a half acres on Bainbridge Island. Our house is 80 feet above a Puget Sound tidal lagoon that fills and drains twice every twenty four hours. We have a view to the north where we see Mt. Baker and the northern cascade peaks labeled Mt. Whitehorse, Three Fingers, and Mt. Pilchuck. We live a few hundred yards from a City park for camping and beach side enjoyment. A “wetlands” swamp is up hill across the road from us and drains onto our property to form a large pond. The pond overflows to a drainage ditch that transcends 300 feet of our property and dumps in to Puget Sound.

We have been on the island for forty years. The first twenty years we had five acres, a house with many bedrooms, a horse, chickens, and a garden. When our offspring left the nest, we wanted to downsize. We found these two and a half dilapidated acres. For three years it had not sold. It had barbed wire everywhere, blackberry vines everywhere, and stinging nettles ten feet high. It had a dilapidated cottage, tack shack, a horse shelter, and a two story “mother-in-law” building. The latter met no building codes. We put in a lot of “sweat” equity. I tore down all of the structures using a crow bar and a hammer. We had a contractor build us a house designed for two people.

Our place is not like a public park. Basically, we are consumed with cutting back nature’s growth. I mow at least one acre of grass (not lawn) with a push mower (gas powered). However, we live with the wild critters and birds — or they live with us. You cannot come and visit the wildlife like you might do at the zoo, you have to live here and they show up when they are in the mood.

Our daughter visited us for a weekend recently and we saw no wildlife. Two hours after she left, three deer appeared and laid down twenty feet in front of our view window and chewed their cud for a while. Then twenty wild geese flew east to west past our picture windows.

The critters include river otters, coyotes, raccoons, and (of course) squirrels. The birds include eagles, sea gulls, wild geese, king fishers, herons, mallard ducks, crows, robins, and ospreys.

In the spring of 2011, each morning at dawn two geese landed on our roof sounding like someone had dumped a 25 pound bag of flour on it. They then spent the day wandering our property. (Cleaning up after geese is not a problem; I grew up in a rural area and scooped my share of cow and horse manure.) One morning a parade came from the pond down our driveway



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

BASEBALL TERMS

E	K	T	B	A	L	L	U	B	D	M	O	L	S	D
L	P	X	Q	P	S	U	R	Y	C	V	U	I	C	V
B	S	I	N	G	L	E	L	P	I	R	T	N	U	B
U	E	D	I	G	L	P	Y	R	Z	I	F	K	T	K
O	O	G	V	G	J	L	E	A	A	W	I	U	R	V
D	W	N	D	Z	I	H	S	C	R	O	E	O	G	M
F	S	F	C	V	P	T	R	Z	R	M	L	G	D	F
C	K	H	P	A	R	N	P	E	A	P	D	N	L	J
E	H	O	O	I	T	G	H	G	N	R	E	K	F	R
A	R	M	K	R	H	C	L	R	G	N	R	V	X	A
T	B	E	D	P	T	L	H	Q	D	V	U	U	J	T
X	F	R	Z	I	A	S	L	E	U	O	Y	R	G	E
Y	D	U	P	B	N	E	T	V	R	X	K	V	P	N
I	N	N	I	N	G	R	N	O	W	N	L	P	O	I
O	F	F	S	A	A	B	Y	F	P	A	J	A	P	P

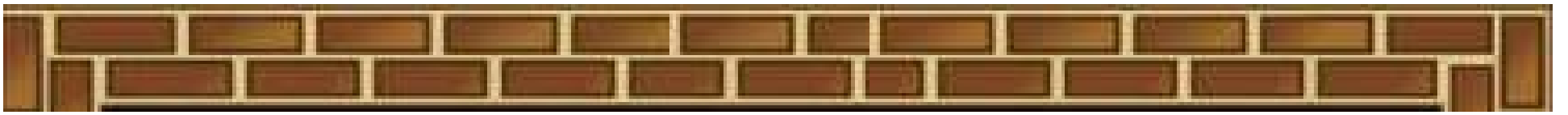
RUNNER	INNING	OUT
STRIKE	BALL	PINETAR
BALLGAME	HOMERUN	SINGLE
DOUBLE	TRIPLE	BUNT
PITCHER	CATCHER	SHORTSTOP
OUTFIELDER		

with Mom and Pop and seven baby geese. They circled our house (we think they were saying “Thank you for the hospitality.”) and then returned to the pond on our property. I went out to get a better look at the young geese, but could not see them. Mom was standing by the pond, Pop was lying down, and two crows in a tree were making a lot of noise. I threw rocks at the crows who then left. I then noticed Pop’s feathers. They were bouncing up and down. He was sitting on seven offspring to protect them and they wanted out. Later in the day the parents marched the offspring to Puget Sound.

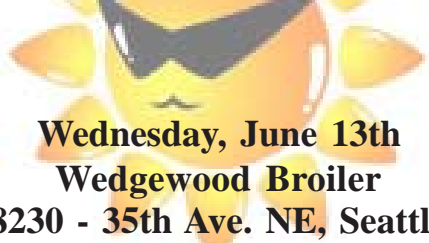
Our house provides an opening flyway between the evergreen trees for mallard ducks who arrive at dawn, spend the day in our pond, and then return to Puget Sound at dusk. There are 20 to 30 of them all winter. They fly in and fly out at full speed and low level. They can stay at the level of our kitchen windows between the house and evergreen trees or pump a little harder and fly over the lowest portions of our roof. Coming in, they look like they will fly into our view window at full speed, and then they veer either up or around. In 20 years of living here we have never seen them hit our house. Ironically, while I was writing this we heard a loud “bang”. We went to the window and saw a male mallard staggering around on the grass shaking his head. After about five minutes he straightened up and flew fast back to Puget Sound beaches. Our flyway did not serve him well.



There is much more I can write about why it is that our favorite place is at home. I am sure that most people who worked for the City for many years, and have reached the age of Social Security and City Retirement incomes, are very happy and comfortable in their homes. Many of these people choose to travel worldwide each year, as I had expected we would do. I have been retired eight years and I am still trying to analyze retirement life. For some reason the “travel bug” has not kicked in for us. I think it is because of the “Home Sweet Home” syndrome that we worked all of our lives to achieve.



ARSCE Summer Luncheon


Wednesday, June 13th
Wedgewood Broiler
8230 - 35th Ave. NE, Seattle

11:00am - Noon: No Host Bar; Visit with friends.
Lunch is served at Noon.

COST: \$16 per person
Reservations Due by Tuesday, June 5th, 2012

Speaker: Jan Sprake, Executive Director
Medic One Foundation
Topic: "ICE (In Case of Emergency)
Vial of Life"
A discussion of a lifesaving program.

ARSCE Officers and New Board Members
will be sworn in to office.

(Cancellations no later than 48 hours prior to the luncheon.
Cancellation questions? Call Joanne Kinsella at 206.992.7311)

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



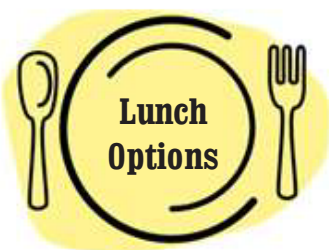
NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____



# Attending	Lunch Options	Menu Choice
No. Attending _____	Spinach Salad wih Roll plus Beverage & Ice Cream	
No. Attending _____	Fried Chicken and Baked Beans plus Beverage & Ice Cream	
No. Attending _____	Broiled Chicken Breast - select one side dish ___ Potato or ___ Soup or ___ Salad plus Beverage & Ice Cream	

**Note: Each attendee chooses one menu selection above. If
choosing Broiled Chicken Breast, also select one side dish.**

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

PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATION EARLY.
Thank You!

2012 MEETING AND PUBLICATION DATES

- Wed. May 9 – Executive Board Mtg./Greenwood Library
@ 8016 Greenwood Av. No.
in Seattle @ 10:15 AM
- Tues. May 22 – News Deadline (July/Aug. Issue)
- Wed. June 13 – Summer Luncheon — Swear in Officers/
New Board Members
- Fri. June 22 – Mail ARSCE News (July/Aug. Issue)
- Wed. July 11 – Executive Board Mtg./Greenwood Library
@ 8016 Greenwood Av. No.
in Seattle @ 10:15am
- Tues. July 24 – News Deadline (Sep./Oct. Issue)
- Fri. Aug. 24 – Mail ARSCE News (Sep./Oct. Issue)
- Wed. Sep. 12 – Fall Luncheon Mtg.
- Tues. Sep. 18 – News Deadline (Nov./Dec. Issue)
- Wed. Oct. 10 – Executive Board Mtg./Greenwood Library
@ 8016 Greenwood Av. No.
in Seattle @ 10:15am
- Fri. Oct. 19 – Mail ARSCE News (Nov./Dec. Issue)

Note: Calendar is subject to change by Board approval.

Application for Membership

The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees
Address Change? () Dues Payment? () Donation? () New Member? ()
Associate Member? () Beneficiary? ()

Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date Retired _____ From Dept. _____ Amt. Encl. _____

E-Mail Address _____

Annual Dues: \$12.00. Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30.

If you wish to have your dues deducted from your July pension check, please fill out the following section for the Retirement Office and include it with the rest of this coupon when you send it to ARSCE.

The Association of 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 City 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 Association of Retired Seattle City Employees. 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 The Association of 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 Association of Retired City Employees. P.O. Box 75385,
Seattle, WA. 98175-0385. Attn: Joanne Kinsella**