

# ARSCE



Association of Retired Seattle City Employees  
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Seattle, WA 98175-0385

[www.arsce.org](http://www.arsce.org)

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

January/February, 2013

The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees

Volume 40, No. 4

 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** 

AN OPEN DOOR  
TO OPPORTUNITY...

**Join  
ARSCE  
Today**

Application on page 12

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

ARSCE is an organization created with you in mind. We welcome...

- Vested Employees (with the City 5 years or more)
- Associate Employees (with the City less than 5 years)
- Pensioners (retired from the City's employ)
- Beneficiaries (spouses/partners of City workers no longer with us)

ARSCE Goals:

- Educate members about pension & retirement issues
- Monitor pensions & benefits; contantly working on behalf of all while advocating for change where necessary

WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER YOU DO BETTER

## OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Merle Overland

**T**his edition of the *ARSCE News* is sent to every retiree of the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System, not just the members of ARSCE. **Our message is simply an invitation for you to join ARSCE.** Once retired you realize how difficult it is to keep up on what goes on within the City organization and how difficult it is to keep in contact with former co-workers. There is little news carried by the newspaper or local channels that pertains to the ongoing work of the City. Our role as an organization is in part to help keep all retirees informed and aware of issues regarding our retirement. There is strength in numbers and we invite all retirees to join with us and stay connected to the changes and issues that may impact our system.

Additionally, this year we changed our By Laws to provide full membership to all current City employees that are vested in SCERS. Most current employees are future SCERS retirees and all share our concerns with the future of the system. We all want to make sure that our retirement fund is used solely for the purpose of fulfilling the contract with employees for their retirement years and that our monies are carefully and soundly managed. We welcome all current employees to join us as a way to stay informed on the future of the system.

We want our membership to represent all departments and all levels of employees and the larger our membership the stronger our voice will be as issues evolve. Dues are a bargain at \$1 a month and can be handled through payroll or retirement check deduction. We do not require your time unless you choose to join our Executive Board or board committee. With membership you will receive the *ARSCE News* six times a year, have full voting rights, and, of course, you are welcome to join us for a quarterly luncheon or other sponsored events. We always need input, ideas, suggestions and support, so we welcome your thoughts and concerns.

ARSCE has been around for close to forty years as a non-profit organization created to keep members informed about their system, economic issues, benefits options and related issues. Our focus through our paper, our website, periodic emails and mailings, is always to keep members linked to information vital to your future and the future of SCERS. We always need to keep in mind that SCERS is our system and the SCERS board and staff are managing our money as a trust for the future of all of us.

Our invitation is genuine and sincere – we want you to join us to stay informed and connected to the system which provides for our future security. Please join today using the form contained in this edition (found on page 12) or by visiting our website!

Happy New Year to all our current and future members! ~ Merle

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

### GO ONLINE

to [www.arsce.org](http://www.arsce.org) and click on "Events and Discounts" to learn about discounts you may be eligible to enjoy!



### Inside this Issue

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## YOUR PENSION NEWS

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



### Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution Pension Plans

We are fortunate that most active and retired City of Seattle employees are members of a Defined Benefit (DB) Pension Plan. But, the political environment for public employment is getting scrutinized by the general public and the elected officials who administer the plans. Public employee pensions — that were once considered modest — are now being characterized as extravagant, they are under attack, and they are being replaced with Defined Contribution (DC) or Hybrid Plans. (A hybrid plan is a percentage or split between DB and DC type plans; Washington State PERS 3 is a Hybrid Plan.)

Let's take a brief look at the structure and performance limitations of DB and DC plans as they are currently constructed.

The original thinking was that Defined Contribution plans would dominate Defined Benefit plans because DC plans have flexibility and anything that can be accomplished with a DB plan can be replicated in a cleverly constructed DC plan. However, this belief has not delivered on the promise. DB plans create securities investments that are not currently available in capital markets, nor likely to be created in capital markets in the future.

### RISK:

The most obvious source of risk to an employee in the DC plan is the investment performance of the fund. However, this uncertainty can be reduced. For example, the periodic contributions to the DC plan could be used to purchase deferred annuities which would generate retirement income similar to that provided by DB plans; if the plan designed allows that option and the costs are reasonable. Alternatively, it is feasible for the plan to contain an investment strategy with lower rates of real returns to reduce risk.

### PORTABILITY:

The common thinking is portability favors the DC plans. The justification is that the worker/employee in a DB plan who leaves his/her job for reasons beyond their control forfeits benefits already accrued, if vested. It is further asserted that the contracts between employees and employers will require additional compensation (wage plus pension accrual) for more tenured workers. The termination of employment in a DB plan will cause forfeiture of an ability to work for total compensation rates (total pension accruals). Under this reasoning, DC plans are more portable if employment is exposed to a volatile work environment.

### INCENTIVES:

Pension benefits in DC plans depend upon the wage trajectory over a worker's entire career. In contrast, benefits in most DB plans depend on final average salary. Workers in DB plans would need to sustain an increased level of work effort over their entire career in order to achieve a higher career ending salary. Final salary has more advantage in DB plans because of the increased monetary effect on final pension benefits.

### SUMMARY:

The major advantage of DB plans is the potential they offer in providing a stable replacement rate of final income to workers. DB plans can offer some insurance against real wage risk. Of course, the wage risk protection offered to workers is the responsibility of the employer.

The advantages of DC plans are most apparent during periods of inflation uncertainty. These are: the predictability of the value of pension wealth, the ability to invest in inflation-hedged portfolios rather than nominal DB annuities, and the fully-funded nature of the DC plan.

### OPINION:

The City of Seattle is not offering or proposing to provide a Defined Contribution Pension Plan. I am providing an understanding of the differences between the two types of plans. This is the current national debate about pension plans. I've been a strong proponent of Defined Benefit Plans like the current one in use by our Seattle City Employees Retirement System. As retired members of SCERS, your benefits are protected by law. But, it's important to understand the current challenges facing Public Employee Pensions. I have a very simple view of the difference between the two types of plans: with the DC plan, the money is yours and you know exactly how much but, when it's gone, it's gone. With the DB plan, the benefit is yours and

you know how much you'll be getting. You know it will be there for you and your beneficiaries now and in the future, while you and they are alive.

Sources: National Bureau of Economic Research and US Department of Labor

### Donna Fisher

I attended the annual ARSCE Christmas Luncheon in December and was sad to hear that Donna Fisher had died. I've been attending the luncheons since 1998 and have seen the passing of many of our friends at ARSCE. However, losing both Mary Norris and Donna this year has been the hardest. Every time I've attended this luncheon, I've had the privilege of sitting with Mary and Donna. I was looking forward to seeing Donna this year so we could catch up and we could talk about Mary. These two, Mary and Donna, were great friends to me and to ARSCE. They will be missed by all of us.

## 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/human\\_services/seniorsdisabled.mosc](http://www.seattle.gov/human_services/seniorsdisabled.mosc)

**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 & 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

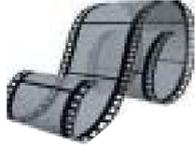
- 1) Owner and Publisher: The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees  
Address: P.O. Box 75385  
Seattle, WA 98175-0385
- 2) Title of Publication: ARSCE News
- 3) Frequency of issues: Six (6) issues each year.
- 4) Merle Overland, President  
Barbara Graham, Vice President  
Joanne Kinsella, Recording Secretary  
Pam Baer, Financial Secretary  
Robert Sugden, Treasurer  
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 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible. ARSCE dues are \$12.00 each year from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 Film Guy

By Jim Mohundro



### Some Film Guy Favorites on DVD

Sometimes, as we age a bit, our ears grow larger but the sounds they hear grow smaller. Some DVDs provide English subtitles or “close captioning.” There is a difference: subtitles represent the screenplay’s dialog; close captioning often adds non-dialog sounds such as train whistles, glass breaking, notes about music played or sung, etc. These films are around town at video stores that carry decent inventories of the classics, but may not be available with subtitles or close captioning from cable or satellite, or “streaming” resources such as Netflix and Amazon.

**The following films have optional subtitles in English or “close captions” for the hearing impaired; i.e., the subtitles or close captions may be selected, or not, by the viewer, on the DVD menu or with the DVD player’s remote control.** These films were all directed by non-U.S.-born directors who came to this country to escape oppression, or had connections in the film industry, or were attracted by the resources offered by Hollywood. They all became American citizens. The films are all set in their new country in various times and places.

**Jezebel**, 1938 (Bette Davis, Henry Fonda, George Brent, Margaret Lindsay, Donald Crisp, Fay Bainter, Spring Byington, Richard Cromwell and Henry O’Neill), directed by William Wyler, who was born in French Alsace. This drama is set in *ante-bellum* New Orleans, with an Oscar winning Davis.

**Cat People**, 1942 (Simone Simon, Kent Smith, Tom Conway, Jack Holt and Jane Randolph), directed by Jacques Tourneur, who was born in Paris. This creepy, subtle little horror film is set in New York City. These cat people are not much like dog people. In fact, they’re not much like the cat people I know, either.

**Shadow of a Doubt**, 1943 (Teresa Wright, Joseph Cotten, Macdonald Carey, Henry Travers, Patricia Collinge, Wallace Ford and Hume Cronyn), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, who was born in London. The film is set in Santa Rosa, California. You might not want Joe Cotten’s Uncle Charlie as your Uncle Charlie.

**Laura**, 1944 (Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews, Clifton Webb, Vincent Price and Judith Anderson), directed by Otto Preminger, who was born in a small town in what is now the Ukraine. The film is set in New York City and David Raksin’s title song will be remembered even longer than the picture. Clifton Webb is not Sitting Pretty in this film.

**Crossfire**, 1947 (Robert Young, Robert Mitchum, Robert Ryan, Gloria Grahame, Paul Kelly, Sam Levene, Steve Brodie and Lex Barker), directed by Edward Dmytryk, who was born in Grand Forks, British Columbia. *Crossfire* is set in Washington, D.C., a few days after the end of World War II. This is a message film wrapped in a *noir* mystery with a ‘B’ budget and an ‘A’ cast that acquits itself well, except for the one who is not acquitted.

**Ace in the Hole aka The Big Carnival**, 1951 (Kirk Douglas, Jan Sterling and Gene Evans), directed by Billy Wilder, who was born in a small town in Austria-Hungary, now Poland. The setting is in and around Albuquerque, New Mexico. The often intense Kirk Douglas has never been more so and Jan Sterling matches his performance.

**The Big Heat**, 1953 (Glenn Ford, Gloria Grahame, Jocelyn Brando, Alexander Scourby, Lee Marvin, Carolyn Jones and Jeanette Nolan), directed by Fritz Lang, who was born in Vienna. Lee Marvin, in an early key role, and Gloria Grahame bring big performances to this police corruption tale. *The Big Heat* is set in an unidentified large city, perhaps New York or Chicago. It couldn’t happen here, could it?

**High Noon**, 1952 (Gary Cooper, Thomas Mitchell, Lloyd Bridges, Katy Jurado, Grace Kelly, Otto Kruger, Lon Chaney, Jr. and Harry Morgan), directed by Fred Zinnemann, who was also born in Vienna. The film is set in post-Civil War New Mexico Territory. Zinnemann meant this story to take on some of the flavor of a 19th century frontier news story with crisp dialog and a dry, high-contrast, unfiltered look.

## ALWAYS BENEFICIAL

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



### Check Your Checks!

If you are enrolled in a City retiree medical plan, the December 31st pension check contains the updated premium deduction for January 2013 coverage. Please review your deduction to be sure that the amount matches the published rate for the plan in which you are enrolled. Contact the Retirement Office at 206-386-1293 with any questions or discrepancies.

### Health Care Rate Increases

Several retirees have asked about the City medical plan rate increases for 2013. In particular: “How do rates get set?”

### General Rate Information

In general, medical plan actuaries set rates for each plan to cover expected plan costs. This includes anticipated

- **Medical claims cost:** For health care provider services used by plan participants, according to plan design – this is what the plan pays (after your copays or coinsurance) to providers. This includes costs for doctor visits, hospital stays, medical equipment, prescription drugs, etc.

- **Costs of running and offering the plan:** Claim processing, plan booklet preparation, customer service, legal filings, participant mailings, underwriting, premium taxes, profit, etc.

Overall – for all of the City’s self-insured Aetna plans – per person claims costs have increased around 9% (on average) each year since the early-2000s. In any specific year, the change can vary. If the plan has had higher claims than expected and/or the actuaries expect a high claims year, the increase could be greater than 9%. If the plan has had fewer claims than expected and/or the actuaries expect a low year of claims, the increase might be lower. While the 9% figure applies only to the City’s self-insured plans, the general rate information also applies to insured plans, including the Medicare plans.

### Effect of Plan Design Changes

There were essentially no changes to the retiree medical plan designs this year, so the rate increases for 2013 reflect increases to the basic categories mentioned above. For future reference, remember that plan design changes also affect rates. If the plan design is improved so that participants’ benefits increase, rates will go up by more than the base amount. The inverse is also true: if the benefits under the plan design are reduced, the rates, which quantify expected claims and other costs, will also go down.

Any other benefits related questions? Send me an email at: [benefits@arsce.org](mailto:benefits@arsce.org).

You can reach Ms. Freiboth at [benefits@arsce.org](mailto:benefits@arsce.org)

## Golden Contributions

Jim Coover, Engineering

LeRoy Eagon, Building

Bud Eickstadt, City Light

Bob Graham, Engineering

Eddie Jorgensen, Personnel

Eric Lamers, City Light

Juanita Nordin, Police

Kathy Ray, Fire

Jerry Robertson, Dept. of Administrative Services

## 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 issue of *ARSCE News* is going out to all retired City Employees and gives me an opportunity to invite all of the retirees from our Department to attend our luncheons. We would be delighted to see you and I am sure you would enjoy renewing old relationships.

I would also invite you all to join The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees. The newsletter provides a lot of information on issues that relate to all of us that are retired from the City. Each issue also contains articles from other retired groups from other Departments.

Looking ahead to 2013, our luncheon dates are: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 9, October 7, November 4, and December 2. As a suggestion, when you have your calendar for 2013, mark the above dates for reference.

The attendance at our September Luncheon numbered twenty-two, and October's attendance was twenty-one. Our November Luncheon was attended by a small group of thirteen.

We had a pleasant surprise visitor at our November luncheon, Les Culver was in attendance. Les has been retired over thirty years and he said this was his first time attending our luncheon. All of us that knew Les before he retired had a very enjoyable visit. Les told me he plans on attending more luncheons to visit with all of us again.

October birthdays were celebrated by Idona Bentler, Al Nikolaisen, Tosh Okamoto, and Al Smith. November birthdays were observed by Sandy Cook and Ardeth McBride. Best wishes to all of them and may they enjoy many more.



Left to Right:  
Al Smith,  
Idona Bentler,  
Tosh Okamoto,  
Al Nikolaisen



Left to Right:  
Sandy Cook,  
Don McBride,  
Ardeth McBride

My thanks to all of you that were able to attend our luncheons, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2013!

Contact Mr. Robertson at [oldtimers@arsce.org](mailto:oldtimers@arsce.org)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Margaret Boman, Beneficiary  
Carroll "Corky" Cook, Library  
Bryan Leuschen, City Light  
Daniel Maher, City Light  
Valerie Heide Mudra, Public Utilities

## 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 155<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.rclea.net).

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

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

**Transit Retirees (South End):** Meet at Germaine's Kitchen in Burien at 127 SW 153rd Street 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 11 AM at the Denny's Restaurant located at N. 155th St. and Aurora Ave. N. in Shoreline. Contact Roy Galloway at 206.362.3937 for further information.

**Parks Dept. Retirees' Luncheons** are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the 125<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE MARCH, 2013  
ELECTION TO THE ARSCE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Your ballot for the ARSCE Executive Board Election will be included in the March/April 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.**

**ANN BEARD**

Ann 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 will allow me to enhance my involvement and further commitment to my fellow retired employees."

**PAMELA BAER**

Pam retired from the Seattle Public Library in August 2007, as a dual member. During her 15 years with the library she held the position of Payroll & Benefits Specialist where her duties included processing payroll for approximately 600 employees, conducting new benefit orientations, advising employees regarding options and changes, and administering the FMLA program. Prior to the library, Pam worked for Grays Harbor County PUD (PERS I) for 15 years. She was hired as their mail clerk and quickly moved through a variety of positions including customer service, billing clerk, and accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll accountant.

Since retirement, Pam has been busy volunteering at her son's school including coordinating the school's annual fund, auction data entry, and volunteer/communications coordinator for the school musical. For the past year she has been providing accounting services on a contract basis to the Seattle Public Library Foundation.

Pam was recently appointed as the Financial Secretary for ARSCE and is currently a member of the Communications Committee. She is concerned that the City is looking at ways to adjust the current retirement system. She strongly believes in the work the ARSCE board is doing to watch out for the welfare of all City employees, retirees and future retirees.

Pam is married to Dan Baer, Housing. They are raising two boys. She loves reading, baking, walking the dog, and when she can fit it in, traveling.

**TICIANG DIANGSON**

Ticiang started working for the City in 1981, for a brief minute as a social worker in the Human Services Dept. until the federal at-risk youth programs were cut. She then got hired on at City Light as an Energy Conservation Rep through Project Hire. In 1987, she moved to the Solid Waste Utility/Engineering Dept. to join the team kicking off curbside recycling (she was the inaugural editor of Curb Waste and Conserve). When the Engineering and Water Depts. merged into Seattle Public Utilities, she was working on household hazardous waste programs and continued that work until 2005 when she became the inaugural director of the Environmental Justice & Service Equity Division at SPU. She retired from that job in February 2012. Currently she volunteers as a board member of the North Beacon Hill Community Council. She's interested in being on the ARSCE board to work on the possibilities of making the City retirement process more customer-friendly.

**JUDITH FLEMINGS**

I am a former Clerk II with Seattle City Light; a Clerk IV at the Executive Department's Citizens Service Bureau (where I eventually became the CSB Director); and I retired from the Department of Human Resources as an Executive Assistant in 1990. My background, as a managerial problem-solver, works well for ARSCE and, with your favorable vote, I will continue to serve our organization capably. I still believe "all things are possible" if you work hard to achieve the necessary goal(s). There is still one disparity that exists between pre-1998 retirees and post-1998 retirees. That difference — still to be resolved — is "The Pop-up."

**BARBARA GRAHAM**

As your current ARSCE Vice President, I chair the Legislation Committee. I have been working diligently with other Board members to identify and address concerns of our members. Toward that end I will continue to help ARSCE determine how we can help members. I also welcome current employees who are now eligible for full ARSCE membership. I enjoyed over 30 years of City service, retiring from the Engineering Department in 1996.

**ANNE MILLER**

As a Cost Accounting Supervisor, Ann retired in 2001 after 27 years in Transportation. While working at the City she spent time volunteering at Second Harvest in Seattle, and served as President of SEDSO (Seattle Engineering Dept. Service Organization) in the 90's when there were over 750 members. Ann helped start the Go Getters Investment Club in the 80's as a personal strategy for a successful future retirement. She is interested in helping ARSCE by making sure we have lots of fun activities and loves to plan parties! Ann has served as an Alternate Board member and has been helping organize meetings and activities for ARSCE.

**KATHY RAY**

Kathy was hired by the Fire Department in February 1968 and retired in October of 1996. She worked in the Chief's office as assistant secretary. At that time, this included all personnel functions and secretarial assistance to the Training Division. In April 1970, she transferred to the Training Division located at Fire Station 14 where she was responsible for providing administrative support, producing manual revisions, training materials, and the Division's budget. She was actively involved in early recruiting efforts for minorities and women.

After 3 years of "retirement" she went to work for Stadium Flowers in Accounts Payable and customer service. She then officially retired in April 2008. Kathy stayed involved with the Fire Service through membership in the Seattle Fire Buff Society, which provides rehab and assistance at fire locations for Seattle and Shoreline.

An incumbent ARSCE Board member, Kathy has an interest in continuing to serve on the Board to help with achieving ARSCE's goals. She serves on the Election and Entertainment Committees. "I have a special interest in the areas of health and long-term care insurance and increasing active member participation in ARSCE activities."

This candidate information can also be found online at: [www.arsce.org/candidates2013.com](http://www.arsce.org/candidates2013.com)

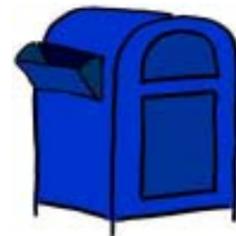
**We Get Letters!****Greetings from Arizona**

Guy Stewart, D.A.S. purchasing agent, now 16 years retired writes to Pam Lucarelli, ARSCE Program Co-Chair:

"I've been in Green Valley for 11 years. Previously I had a mountain-view home in Tyrone, New Mexico. I don't mind being over-the-hill, and I've hosted exchange students from Brazil, N.E. China and Prague. Hosting is one of the best things I've done in my life.

I've served on the board of a home association with charge of the clubhouse grounds. My experience as buyer for Seattle Parks has been very helpful. Some of my neighbors are snow birds and I care for home landscaping in the cul-de-sac. I contract out the tree work. We have over 6,000 snowbirds from Washington, Minnesota and Michigan in Green Valley."

Pam adds that Guy was the best buyer and negotiator on City contracts. She has contact information for Guy.



All submittals become the property of ARSCE. Letters may be edited.

## The Computer Guru

By Larry Howell



We are very excited to introduce a new columnist for *ARSCE News*. Mr. Howell works with other tech gurus to solve a myriad of computer issues that confound even the best of us. Please reach out to him with your questions. His goal is to convey information in an understandable manner...without all of the technical jargon and acronyms. He's a tireless researcher of all things creating the "computer challenged".

Before jumping into the technological aspects of computers, let's consider some basic concepts that apply to all computer users. These concepts are essential to effective use of information gleaned from the Internet and protecting the Internet user's privacy and on-line personal safety.

**"It must be true; I read it in an email."**

Simply put, the Internet is a communication tool that allows anyone to say anything about everything without having to meet the burden of proof. For instance, during the recent Presidential campaign, the quantity of illogical, misleading and hoax emails that spread across the Internet was stunning. For me, the most disturbing observation was how many recipients of these viral emails ("pass along emails") believed the content of these email messages simply because the message was received in an email. Our new communication technology greatly enhances our ability to communicate quickly, but this technology does not guarantee the accuracy of the information communicated. Before you buy into the information posted on the Internet or contained in viral email, use one of the Internet Search tools, for example Google or Bing, to search the Web to find out what other Internet users are saying about the comments in the email.

For a "trustworthy" assessment of the "facts" in viral emails and Internet content, check out the facts by visiting [WWW.SNOPES.COM](http://WWW.SNOPES.COM). Snopes reviews the content and provides an evaluation (Truth/Misleading/Hoax) of the email message. More importantly, Snopes provides references to the source material that will allow you to reach your own "informed" decision. And do not believe the information in a viral email message just because the email message indicates that the information has been reviewed by Snopes and that the information has been determined to be truthful and based on reliable sources. Take the time to go directly to the Snopes website, not a link provided within the email...which will likely take you to a bogus website pretending to be Snopes. Forwarding a bogus email message without making a reasonable effort to check the validity of the "facts" contributes to the problem and is exactly what the perpetrator of the fraudulent email relies on.

**"Everyone makes mistakes, but it takes a computer to make mistakes really fast."**

*"Sin in haste; repent in leisure."*

Two of the most common user actions that put personal privacy at risk involve email and Social Media sites, such as Facebook.

Sending an email requires 3 user actions: 1) Entering the email address for the person to receive your email; 2) Creating the email message; and 3) clicking the "SEND" button. Each step has potential pitfalls. Working backwards, let's evaluate the "Send" action. Always keep in mind that clicking the "Send" button is an **irreversible** process. Once an email has been sent, there is no way to recall or cancel the email; count to 10 and re-read the email before clicking on the Send button! Secondly (and probably most critical), when creating your email message, always be aware that the recipient only needs to click on the "Forward" button to share your "private" comments with anyone/everyone in their Contacts folder. You may intend for your comments to be a private communication, but when you press the "Send" button there is no guarantee that your wishes or intent will be followed...just ask General Petraeus.

Probably the most basic tip when using email is to always double check the email addresses in the "TO:" box of your email message, especially if you are sending the email to a defined group, such as your Bridge Group. When using a defined group of email addresses, it is easy to forget the exact list of recipients in the defined group. If the email message is of a sensitive nature, be sure that the email addresses in the "TO:" box only include the recipients that you want to receive the email. More than one employee has regretted unwittingly including the boss's name in the recipient list!

Protecting your privacy and your on-line personal safety when using the Internet should be a primary goal when you are using the Internet.

**"Common Sense is the most uncommon sense."**

The second frequent "high risk" area of internet usage involves Social Media websites, such as Facebook. When posting comments or pictures on Social Media websites, your pictures and comments are out there for everyone to see...forever. Just like an email can be forwarded, a "friend" can pass your photos on to others. Many teens have learned this lesson the hard way. The rule is: "Never post a comment or photo on a social media website that you don't want the world (or in this case, the teen's parents) to read and see. Use common sense when uploading information to a Social Media website.

Let me ask you a question. If you decide to close your Facebook account, what happens to the personal data that you have posted on your Facebook account? The answer: At present, your personal data is not deleted when you close your Facebook account. The information and pictures are archived on the website's database servers. Once you have posted your information and pictures to a social media website, don't assume that you still "own" the information. Once the information is out there, your pictures and comments are out there (somewhere) essentially forever... no "take backs".

**Basic On-line Personal Safety**

It is not possible to guarantee on-line Privacy and Personal Safety. However, there are some fundamental procedures that reduce the risk...if you always follow the procedure. **Never go on-line (connect to the Internet) without having an active, up-to-date anti-virus software application.**



Once, as a test, I connected an unprotected (no anti-virus software installed) PC to the Internet. In less than 5 minutes of browsing through "safe" websites, the computer was infected with numerous malware applications, including Trojans, Browser Hijackers, and a rootkit virus. The computer was rendered useless in less than 5 minutes when browsing the Internet without adequate anti-virus protection. Commercial anti-virus programs are readily available, either for on-line download or from your favorite computer store and many other retail outlets. Many of my Senior Center and private clients are on tight budgets and even the \$45 to \$95 cost of commercial anti-virus software puts strain on their limited budgets. However, there is no need for anyone to forego adequate anti-virus protection. A number of excellent "FREE" anti-virus applications are available for download over the Internet.

However, downloading software on the Internet can be a risky process. Many download websites, especially sites that offer free downloads of gaming software and media sharing websites (especially pornographic websites), may include infected software and media file downloads. After gaining access to your computer, the malware present in the downloaded files can take control of your computer. With the malware installed on your computer, the intruder can use your computer to send junk email to contacts in your email address book and also threaten your financial condition by stealing your credit and financial information...even steal your identity. The risk can be reduced by only downloading software from trusted websites. When downloading files from the Internet, for example an Avery Label Template, it is important to go directly to the vendor's website. Sites indicating that they are an "Authorized" download website may be fishing for you. My preferred website for downloading software applications is: <http://download.cnet.com/windows>.

The CNET website provides a portal to downloadable files that have been scanned for malware. The available downloads are rated by the site editors (comparing the features of comparable software products) to assist you in selecting product downloads. The CNET website also provides a mechanism for users of the downloaded software applications to post their comments about the software features. Once you have anti-virus software installed on your computer, be sure that the anti-virus software stays updated and that you routinely run a full virus scan. I manually check the update status of the anti-virus software every week and schedule a weekly full scan of my computers, even though the anti-virus software automatically updates and is always running in the background.

**Even with anti-virus software installed, up-to-date and running, your computer can be infected. Always maintain a current, verified backup of your personal data using an external data storage device.**

Common virus infections that by-pass the anti-virus software usually involve some user action which, unintentionally, affords the malware access to your computer system. One of the most frequent methods intruders use to infect your computer involves "Popups". For example, one widely distributed hoax malware displays a popup window on the computer desktop that indicates the computer is infected and that you need to pay \$XX by credit card to have the virus removed...**don't do it.**

If you do click "Yes/Proceed", you are most likely introducing at least two threats:

1. By accepting the offer in the popup window (clicking on the "Yes/Proceed" button), you are authorizing the popup application to make changes to your computer, which may include installing any and all types of malware.
2. By using your credit card to pay for the "Service", you have provided the creator of the malware exactly the information they need to initiate the process of stealing your identity, raiding your credit card line of credit and potentially raiding your bank accounts.

The Common Sense approach is, "If in doubt, don't!" The safest approach for protecting your computer and your financial resources from this type of threat is to never buy into popup alerts (or telephone calls) that alert you to computer problems and request/require on-line payment. Another common hoax involves a service call from an "authorized" Microsoft technical support person informing you that "Microsoft" has detected a serious problem on your computer (and, of course, you will have to pay them, on-line, for the problem to be corrected). Just for your information, Microsoft Tech Support does not monitor your computer.

**The "Rules" are:**

- Never respond to popups or telephone calls that ask you to pay on-line to have a computer problem fixed.

*continued on page 7*

**The Computer Guru** *continued from page 6*

- Never provide personal/financial information in email...especially not your Social Security Number.

- When purchasing merchandise on-line,

- Only purchase from known/reliable vendors (such as Amazon or other established retail vendors).
- Limit your financial exposure. Check with the credit card provider. Be sure that you understand the provider's policy for handling unauthorized use of your credit card information. In other words, is there a maximum limit to your personal liability for unauthorized use of your credit card.

- Ask your financial advisor or bank to help you find a way to minimize the financial risk involved in making on-line purchases. They should be able to provide you a number of methods for limiting or eliminating the financial risk.

If you have questions concerning your computer issues, you may submit your questions by email to me. Questions submitted to this column may be used (without identification of the sender) as content for this column.

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

**MEMORIALS**

Rich Ceccarelli, Treasurer,  
Nancy Jo Ceccarelli, Treasurer  
In memory of Mary Norris, City Light and  
Donna Fisher, City Light

Joanne Kinsella, Public Utilities  
In memory of Sally Anderson, Engineering  
and Bob Cadden, Engineering

Pam Lucarelli, Parks  
In memory of Donna Fisher, City Light

Joe Ralph, Engineering  
In memory of Carrie Ralph

**In Memory**

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



Gopal Ayengar, City Light  
Retired: 01/01/11  
Died: 08/28/12  
Age: 72

V. Jewel Brazell, Muni Court  
Retired: 07/01/83  
Died: 10/20/12  
Age: 93

James Cheng-Hsiung Chen,  
Dept. of Construction and Land Use  
Retired: 03/16/11  
Died: 09/30/12  
Age: 68

Marian Cummings,  
Dept. of Transportation  
Retired: 05/01/77  
Died: 07/01/12  
Age: 95

Freedly Cunningham, Metro  
Retired: 04/01/82  
Died: 10/11/12  
Age: 88

Mandrid Dettler, Finance  
Retired: 03/01/73  
Died: 10/17/02  
Age: 92

Bobbie Jeanne Ellingsen,  
Fleets and Facilities\*  
Retired: 06/01/94  
Died: 10/18/12  
Age: 79

Elsie Embree, Personnel  
Retired: 07/01/76  
Died: 09/27/12  
Age: 96

Glenn Engstrom, City Light  
Retired: 07/01/95  
Died: 08/20/12  
Age: 68

John Faist, Fleets and Facilities  
Retired: 02/03/10  
Died: 09/02/12  
Age: 63

Donna Fisher, City Light\*  
Retired: 7/89  
Died: 10/07/12  
Age: 87

Leslie Forester, Parks  
Retired: 08/04/10  
Died: 09/25/12  
Age: 67

Myron Healy, Parks\*  
Retired: 04/01/76  
Died: 08/20/12  
Age: 95

Charles Henry, Jr., Metro\*  
Retired: 11/01/83  
Died: 09/13/12  
Age: 92

Richard Hernandez, City Light\*  
Retired: 04/01/87  
Died: 06/06/12  
Age: 89

James Johnston, City Light  
Retired: 01/05/96  
Died: 09/26/12  
Age: 82

Albert Jones, Engineering\*  
Retired: 03/01/90  
Died: 07/25/12  
Age: 87

Tad Kuniyuki, Community  
Development\*  
Retired: 08/01/84  
Died: 08/03/12  
Age: 99

Ramona Laird, Engineering\*  
Retired: 06/01/82  
Died: 09/28/12  
Age: 87

Robert Leach, Metro  
Retired: 02/01/85  
Died: 10/11/12  
Age: 89

Robert Losik, City Light  
Retired: 04/07/04  
Died: 08/23/12  
Age: 66

Dennis Montoya, Jr., Health  
Retired: 06/02/00  
Died: 08/26/12  
Age: 74

Harvey Moos, Public Utilities\*  
Retired: 07/01/92  
Died: 09/08/12  
Age: 82

Hugh Osborne, Jr., City Light  
Retired: 10/01/94  
Died: 10/27/12  
Age: 74

Mary Petorak, Transit\*  
Retired: 05/01/76  
Died: 10/09/12  
Age: 93

Billie Pye, Engineering  
Retired: 02/03/96  
Died: 09/06/12  
Age: 80

Earl Radford, Transit\*  
Retired: 08/01/83  
Died: 09/21/12  
Age: 91

Leslie Sanderson, Treasurer\*  
Retired: 03/01/90  
Died: 07/20/12  
Age: 84

Takashi Sasaki, Dept. of  
Transportation  
Retired 04/01/88  
Died: 07/26/12  
Age: 86



Bernice Sisson, Beneficiary\*  
Died: 10/19/12  
Age: 83

Lyn Spickard, Muni Court  
Retired: 06/07/00  
Died: 07/03/12  
Age: 70

Debbera Stecher, Parks\*  
Retired: 02/09/04  
Died: 07/20/12  
Age: 60

William Thomson, City Light  
Retired: 03/03/10  
Died: 10/05/12  
Age: 59

June Towner, Health  
Retired: 07/01/91  
Died: 08/10/12  
Age: 86

David Wing, Engineering\*  
Retired: 07/01/79  
Died: 07/08/12  
Age: 94

Clarence Wood, City Light  
Retired: 01/01/82  
Died: 03/14/12  
Age: 84

Tommy Wood, Parks\*  
Retired 09/01/90  
Died: 10/13/12  
Age: 84

Tatsuya Yamamoto,  
City Light  
Retired: 03/01/92  
Died: 08/05/12  
Age: 90

## Ken On Elections

By Ken Hunich

Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!"

Patient: "I am 60!"

Doctor: "See, what did I tell you?"

"She's been married so many times she has some she has rice marks on her face."

"Healthy is merely the slowest rate at which one can die."

**The End** ~ I wonder how many of us will miss the familiar faces... the ones we saw in the overwhelming numbers of TV ads that we had been forced to view if we wanted to see a program we liked and which political ads had interrupted. Sometimes the identical ads were played twice in the same program break. We saw the same candidates so many times that their familiar faces immediately caused us to know another election "commercial" would continue to take up more of our time and keep the boredom and irritation going. In addition, it was clear some told lies because many told us things that happened, and they were then followed by other candidates who told us just the opposite. They both can't be right. One of the candidates, therefore, must be a liar and our task was to try to learn who was telling the truth.

**Over and Over** ~ One of the things that irritates me is seeing the same candidate's face and name over and over again and again. I feel I'm not the only one who is exasperated by these repetitions. However, it has been shown we will do what we are told to do even when it exasperates us.

**Signs** ~ And how about the signs seemingly everywhere indicating in large bold letters, "Vote for (candidate's name)". When I see the signs, one thought comes to mind: "Why?"



The signs give no indication of the candidate's qualifications or experience, and why we should vote for him (her). I vote for people I think have the best qualifications and experience for the position; those who convincingly tell me what actions he/she will undertake when once in office that are what I, too, want to see come to pass; and who has positions similar to mine.

Doesn't everyone vote that way? Some may vote for candidates with views the voter doesn't agree with. What changed his mind? It changed because of how he responds to electioneering practices. We all are affected, but if we are aware of these matters we can put our minds above our inclinations and vote for the candidate we feel is best qualified to be elected.

People who study human behavior know how repetitions have effects on our behavior. Take people who are hired to direct a candidate's election. These campaign directors know that someone can get elected if, wherever a voter looks, the candidate's name is in his face. And the director also knows from elections past, the candidate most "seen" will get more votes, and vice versa.

This is especially likely to happen to an uninformed voter. When he stares confusingly at the names on his ballot he is most likely to pick the name he has seen or heard most often. "I've heard a lot about that guy. He must be good, so I'll vote for him."



Think about it: it seems if someone will not get enough votes according to the polls, and the political party he belongs to finds this especially important, the party adds additional millions of dollars to his election campaign. It's illegal to give a voter money in return for his favorable vote, so where does the added money go that gets the added votes?

The money goes to increase getting the candidate's name in front of the voter. This includes more yard signs to line our roads. It also results in more "commercial break" messages that repeatedly keep the candidate's face before the voters, though there are not more facts as to why this candidate should win the election.

It's not appropriate that a candidate with the most campaign funding is given a better chance to be elected.

Additional aired debates between candidates would be more revealing; especially when there is an astute moderator who asks penetrating questions,

who can spot evasive answers or attempts to change the subject, and who can lead the discussion back to the important subject in question.

Getting elected is not always based on fact!

**Elected Officials** ~ In most elections, candidates try to convince the voters to vote for him/her. He/she may promise to accomplish many things. Throughout the pre-election discussions there usually are statements about what will happen if elected; if elected, he/she will champion action that "will create 1,500 new jobs.". Without thinking, one assumes that more jobs are a good thing, and if the candidate can accomplish that, we will give him our support.

Losing jobs is invariably bad. People who lose their income will have difficulty paying the house mortgage, buying food, clothing and all the requirements of a family. And with this comes anxiety about their future without a job. This can be terrible. Nobody wants that to happen.

**New Jobs** ~ Creating "new jobs," I feel, is a double-edged sword, and we are involved with the sharp edge that cuts. If the new jobs reduce unemployment and provide unemployed workers with a job and dignity, it is a very good thing. But frequently new jobs can also be a bad thing.



In the ideal situation, there would be little unemployment. The people who voluntarily leave their jobs would be replaced by others looking for a job. But if in an area where many jobs are fashioned, who fills the new jobs? People come from other regions for a variety of reasons, mostly for the prospect of finding a new job.

The newly arrived people need homes for their families, which, in turn, requires roads to the homes. The new arrivals spur the creation of new recreation areas, shopping facilities, and new roads (that were removed by high-rise apartments and freeways, to name a few). Those who were living here for some time may feel the area is losing many of the things that made living here a joy.

Some of us who have lived in Seattle for a long time remember when traffic was moderate. No high-rise apartment buildings were adjacent to or in residential areas ("residential" meant single-family homes). Throughout the city there still were undeveloped wooded areas that are now removed; there was a place to park your car on a downtown street near where you wanted to shop because there were many stores downtown where people shopped for their family's needs. Downtown included the Bon Marche, a multi-department store that had everything from socks to kitchenware. Frederick & Nelson was similar to "The Bon" but with higher class merchandise, and they would deliver what you had bought to your home. Their Pullman train coach brown vans were frequently seen in residential streets lined with better houses; UPS must have bought the color for their delivery trucks because they use the original color of the Frederick & Nelson vehicles.

The world-wide people who came here for new jobs have changed the area. Mercer Island was all trees when viewed from Seattle. Now there are limited trees and many homes. Seattle was a city that took in small suburban cities such as Columbia City, Lake City, Hillman City and others. Now there are unending buildings built around them and there are no hints where their city limits once existed. The Seattle Rainiers baseball team's ballpark was on Rainier Avenue at McClellan Street. Next to it were two large truck farms, one of which you could see when seated in the ballpark. Farmers from the two truck farms raised vegetables that were taken, most likely, to the Farmers' Market to sell. Yeah, really. Back then, the Market was filled with *farmers* who sold what they grew. North of 145 Street North, State Highway 99, (also called Aurora Avenue) in Seattle was the north-south road for vehicles and went north through forests when it approached then went through Everett.

Now, much of the forests in and near Seattle are gone, likely to make room for the homes of the people who came to this area to fill the "new jobs".

"More is better" is not always the case.

*The butcher backed up to the meat grinder and got a little behind.*

*(Middle aged man) "I don't do drugs anymore 'cause I now can get the same effect standing up fast."*

*(In an English office) "After the tea break, staff should empty the tea pot and stand upside down on the draining board."*

*"This man dresses like an unmade bed."*

You can contact Mr. Hunich at [kenhunich@arsce.org](mailto:kenhunich@arsce.org)

## Parks Department Retiree News

By Alan Hovland

Special "Parks Department Retiree News": My wonderful editors inform me that this issue of the *ARSCE NEWS* will be sent to all the retired employees. This is truly an opportunity for all the recently retired Parks and Recreation employees to connect with the long history of all the dedicated people whose careers in our Department really made a difference in the lives of all the citizens of Seattle for the last 128 years.

I began writing this column in the March/April 1985 issue of the *ARSCE NEWS*. I had been involved in the 1984 Parks and Recreation 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration and I quickly discovered that no one had a list of the retirees. Marcia Schmitt spent hours transcribing the names from the Retirement roles. Then Verle Yeager and Bob Gill helped me contact all the retired employees so we could put together a Christmas Party at the famous Leilani Lanes in December 1984. Forty-one Parks and Recreation Retirees attended, many with their spouses for a total of 59. Many others would join this group over the years; a tradition that has lasted every month since 1984. The first group consisted mainly of maintenance people, Public Works and Grounds Crew Chiefs. Many others joined the luncheon over time because everyone in the Department worked so closely together. The names of the attendees have certainly changed over the years, but the dedication and hard work has not. As you might guess, I have many memories and photos of these many men and women, which I am willing to share. I know that other Retired Employees have memories and photos which could be shared with me and the many other ARSCE readers. Contact me thru ARSCE.

I would be remiss if I did not mention two other writers of "Park News". The first is Elva Patterson, who wrote the "Digging the Divots" column in the Public Service Journal for many years in the 40's and 50's. She worked for the City for 32 years of her 97 year life and was the Secretary for several Superintendents; being very influential in the construction and operation of the Aqua Theater. She won a contest to name "Harborview". She is remembered for her friendly column in the Public Service Journal, the predecessor to ARSCE.

Pat Coupens stepped in to write this column for many years. She was at December's luncheon and planned to enjoy being with her family in the Arizona sun in this new year.

The Seattle Parks and Recreation still offers many fine programs that would be of interest to retired employees. Look at [www.CityofSeattle.gov](http://www.CityofSeattle.gov). Of course, the Lifelong Recreation programs might be of particular interest to the Retired.

Bob Gorski, recently retired plumber, reported that TJ Jacoby, is in a Queen Anne assisted living center.

Lee Werle with Marian Goddard



Marian Goddard keeps being honored for her long history of volunteer work at the Zoo.



## The View from the Buses

By Paul Pioli

Well, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year. I also hope everyone had a good time at the Christmas party held at the Burien Elks. **Al Ramey** and his group do a great job on this function. Everyone who goes usually has a lot of fun and enjoys the company of others.

Now is the time that finds our "snow birds" have left for warmer pastures. New for the year is the meeting place for the north end breakfast. It had been held at the "Crazy Moose Casino". That wouldn't work for the breakfast any longer because the casino now opens at 9:00am for breakfast, instead of the 7:00am they had been offering. Since November, the breakfast meeting has met at the "Pancake House" located on the eastside of Aurora at 238<sup>th</sup>, which is north of Aurora Village. There's been talk about relocating to the "Old Country Buffet" in Lynnwood at about 196<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup>, but **Dave Carter** is on this and will let all the regulars know of any change.

As far as I know, the north end lunch every other month will still be at the "Crazy Moose Casino". Speaking of which, I was at the Casino for lunch when **Dan Maher** came in and joined us. He told us he has retired for the second time. First, he retired from KC Metro under PER's, then went to work for the City of Seattle and retired again under the city pension. Additional visitors that joined us for lunch were **Vic Kaufman** and **Darrell Dungeon**. After lunching with us they went to Northgate to see the James Bond movie, "Skyfall".

I got word that **Jim Vaughn** went in for an Angiogram. His heart stopped and they had to use the "paddles" to get him going again. He had open heart surgery on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December. He was scheduled to be in the hospital for about 4 to 6 days and then, if needed, he'd have to transfer to a rehabilitation center for 1 to 2 weeks. I don't know the name of the hospital where he received treatment.

RIP:

**Rose Falseni**, wife of retired transit driver **Frank Falseni**, passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Her funeral service was held at the Calvin Presbyterian Church on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

November Retired Luncheon: Pat Coupens, Molly and Vance Tagart, Ken Olsen, Jess Howell, Russ Bean Gary Bean, Lee Werle, Alan Hovland and Tru and Ray Heiskanen were in attendance. We all missed Ralph Jellison, a regular attendee, who was, at his age, conducting a protest movement.

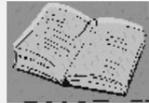
Les Forester passed away in September. He worked for the Accounting Section for 20 years, retiring in 2010. Les was well liked and a gathering was held at the International District Community Center on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Remembrances can be made to the Seattle Parks Foundation. (Thanks to Pam Lucarelli.)

The Picture: (left to right, both rows together) Johnny Worme, Robert B. Harris, Candice Sanders, Phil Renfrow, Ron Sellers, Norm McCrea, Eric Synder, Frank Cabagon, Lee Perry, Peggy Pullen, Wayne Sell, Steve Taimi, Charlie Haaland, Glen Roberson, Ed Fountain and Mary Lohrer. Photograph courtesy of Norm McCrea. Your comments are welcomed.

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

## BOOK NOTES

By Lorry Garratt, Library



### THE LITIGATORS. By John Grisham 2011

Grisham is in top form and wild humor as he brings us the law firm of Finley and Figg, a two bit ambulance chasing business scratching out a living in southwest Chicago. In stumbles young David Zinc, Harvard Law School, big money earner in a prestigious firm, and already burned out. As they get involved in an improbable romp through courtroom strategies, theatrics, and suspense, and then almost without intending to a chance at some of the biggest litigation cases out there. The firm and the partners become memorable and provide us with some very good reading entertainment.

### THE SISTERS. By Nancy Jensen 2011

Several generations of the Fischer family are explored in an intimate journey through 80 years; the mothers and daughters and granddaughters. The story begins in hardscrabble Kentucky in the 1920's when good and loving intentions go completely wrong and misunderstandings begin that are never untangled. The saga ends in 2007, and we follow these girls and women through the Depression, WWII, and Vietnam. We are caught up in their secrets, loves, and betrayals. A remarkable first novel of choices that are made that can shape future generations.

### ELEGY FOR EDDIE. By Jacquelyn Winspear 2012

In April 1933 in Covent Garden gentle Eddie Pettit, who is a bit slow but has a magical gift with horses, is killed in a violent accident. Maisie Dodds has known Eddie fondly from childhood and when questions begin to surface about Eddie's death she determines to find the answers from her position as an investigator. A callous press baron, a "has-been politician" named Winston Churchill, and even Maisie's titled lover somehow emerge as part of a web of power and lies; and then there are more suspicious deaths.

### THE BOY WHO SHOOTS CROWS. By Randall Silvis 2011

Charlotte Dunleavy, a wealthy Manhattan painter, has moved to rural Pennsylvania to escape a failed marriage. A local boy, 12 year old Jesse, often crosses her property to go into the woods to shoot crows, a common pastime in the area. Charlotte has seen him and talks with him, so when one day he doesn't come home Sheriff Gatesman comes to Charlotte for information. On the day in question she was ill with a migraine and can't help but Gatesman, still grieving the deaths of his wife and daughter, is attracted to her and continues to visit as the search for the boy moves forward. This has been called a literary thriller, written with

an artist's eye for detail and building on the sense of dread until the devastating conclusion.

### THE LAKE OF DREAMS. By Kim Edwards 2011

A powerful family drama that spans generations. In the modern age is Lucy Jarrett, a successful international scientist living in Japan with her lover. She is still haunted by her father's puzzling death a decade before and when her still vital mother has an accident she goes home for a rare visit. In the sprawling lakeside home she quite literally opens a door on a dark family secret, which further leads to family members she never knew existed.

### THE OTHER WOMAN'S HOUSE. By Sophie Hannah 2011

In the genre of weird psychological suspense this will be a top winner. In Cambridge, England, Connie Bowskill is unable to sleep so she logs on to a real estate website to take a virtual tour of a particular house. As she clicks through the rooms she is horrified to see a dead woman lying face down in a pool of blood. Rousing her husband from sleep to show him, they find that the body is gone. Now no one will believe her incredible story and this is just the start of a truth that couldn't be.

### THE BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY. By Louise Penney 2012

In the monastery of Saint-Gilbert-Entre-les-Loups, hidden in the wilderness of Quebec, two dozen cloistered monks live in peace and prayer. They have taken a vow of silence, although they are world famous for their glorious voices raised in ancient chants which are so profound they are known as the B.M. (BEAUTIFUL MYSTERY). But when their choir director is murdered the world enters, led by Chief Inspector Gamache and Inspector Beauvoir of the Surete de Quebec. They discover disquiet beneath the apparent harmony because one of the brothers is a murderer.

### THE BEGINNERS GOODBYE. By Anne Tyler 2012

Aaron is a middle aged man, working in the family publishing business with his domineering but loved sister, Nandina. When he meets Dorothy, a plain, hardworking doctor, he inexplicably falls in love and they marry. It is not a romantic or even well suited union, but when Dorothy is killed by a huge tree crashing into their house Aaron is lost, bereft, without a reason to continue his rather mundane life. Then Dorothy begins appearing in their home, his office, other shared places, and although he knows she is still dead the healing begins. Another of Tyler's wise and moving novels.

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

## Laughter Is Good!

By Bill Kruller, Retiree, Seattle Public Utilities

I enjoy being able to laugh. I hope and expect that most other people do also. I think it is healthy. If you can make me laugh, that is a great joy to me. If I can say or do something that makes someone else genuinely laugh, that is an even higher joy for me.

What are some sources of laughter? I enjoy Jay Leno. No, I do not stay up to watch him, but my wife, Grace, records his program and I can watch it in the afternoon. I like to watch his monologue, but I'm willing to turn off the rest of the program after that. I do not know how to record a TV program, so it is an advantage that I have a wife who knows how to that.

I try to keep something in my head that might make someone else laugh. My mind does not keep a big inventory of those things. However, I like this one:

*"Life flies when you are having fun." But the frog says "Life is fun when you are having flies."*

I was an emcee at my recent 60<sup>th</sup> high school graduation reunion. The following seemed to stir some laughter: A widow and a widower attended their 60<sup>th</sup> graduation anniversary event. They sat at the same table and had a great time remembering the past. At the end of the event, the guy said that he would like to maybe call her for a date, or several dates, to see if they would be compatible for marriage. She said, "Yes, yes, yes." The next morning he could not recall her answer, so he called her. He asked, "Did you say yes, or did you say no?"

She replied that she had said, "Yes, yes, yes," but she added that she really appreciated his call, because she could not remember to whom she had said "Yes, yes, yes."

So life goes on. There is laughter available everywhere if a person is alert to it. Also, maybe it goes on further than we realize. The following explains that thought: An eight year old boy asked his grandfather if grandpa believed in reincarnation. Grandpa replied, "No". The boy said, "That is okay, I did not believe in reincarnation when I was your age."

Laughter is good! I am convinced of that! It should not be malicious; it should reflect happiness and good times. I wish that kind of laughter for everyone.



## You Can Help Students Succeed In School!

By Anne Vedella, Seattle Public Library

The Seattle Public Library is seeking Homework Help volunteers who can assist students in grades one through 12 throughout the school year.

Volunteers are especially needed at the **Columbia, Rainier Beach and South Park** branches.

Volunteers will assist mainly ESL students with homework assignments in English, history, mathematics, science, social studies and other subjects on a drop-in basis. Make a difference today by calling the Library's volunteer services coordinator for more information at 206-386-4664!

You can change a student's life!



### Complete Our Circle



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

Application on Page 12.

### Writers Wanted!



Do you have a passion to share with others? Perhaps you have a unique hobby, or fun passtime you're excited to encourage someone to try. Tell us about it!

It could be that you're our next columnist. Tell us about yourself. Contact us at: [arscenews@arsce.org](mailto:arscenews@arsce.org)



### WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

## Winter Word Search

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

BLIZZARD	HOCKEY	SKIING
COLD	ICE	SLUSH
DECEMBER	ICICLES	SNOWMAN
DRIFTS	JANUARY	SNOWSTORM
FEBRUARY	MARCH	TOBBOGAN
FREEZING	SHOVEL	WIND CHILL
FROST	SKATE	

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](mailto:arscenews@arsce.org)

THE NEXT NEWS DEADLINE IS  
 January 22nd, 2013  
 (All submittals become the property of ARSCE.)

## Join ARSCE & Have Some Fun Along The Way!

### ARSCE Program Activities Proposed for 2013

By Pam Lucarelli, ARSCE Program Co-Chair

Have cabin Fever? Newly retired? Or perhaps you are an active Seattle City employee looking for fun events while reaching out to new friends. Come join ARSCE where friendships bloom and longtime associations continue as we explore the best of local attractions.

A host of activities are being considered for 2013. Get out of the house and have some fun with ARSCE. Our goal is small group fellowship in a comfortable environment. It's the opportunity you've been waiting for - come ready to play and enjoy!

- **Seattle Ferris Wheel & the Seattle Aquarium**, and lunch nearby. Free admission to the Aquarium with your Gold Card. (Check out [www.4elders.org](http://www.4elders.org) for Gold Card.)

- **Lucky Eagle Casino** - Day trip to Rochester, Washington for a winning experience and Grand Buffet.

- **Emerald Downs "A Day at the Races"** back by popular demand. Save the Date: June 22, 2013.

Come join ARSCE and help plan our 2013 activity calendar. Your input will be appreciated.

Kathy Ray & Pam Lucarelli, Co-Chairs



### Celebrating the Holidays "ARSCE-style"



ARSCE's annual Christmas luncheon, celebrated on December 5th, was a resounding success! A delicious turkey buffet with all the fixings was prepared by Scott Starkey, executive chef and banquet manager at the West Seattle Golf Course. Described as "good as Grandma's", the luncheon received rave reviews by 90 ARSCE retirees and guests who were treated to an appearance by Santa and his elves.

Entertainment provided by The Symmetry Quartet of Sweet Adelines was back by popular demand. If you missed the holiday party, be sure to mark your calendar for the ARSCE Spring luncheon to be held Wednesday, March 13th.

Join ARSCE now to participate in rewarding retirement activities and enjoy the treasured bonds of friendship. Meet just a few of the attendees. (Photos provided courtesy of Al Hovland.)



#### 2013 MEETING AND PUBLICATION DATES

- Thur. Jan. 3 – Executive Board Mtg./Greenwood Library @ 8016 Greenwood Av. No. in Seattle @ 10:15am
- Tues. Jan. 22 – News Deadline (Mar./Apr. Issue)
- Thurs. Feb. 7 – Executive Board Mtg./Greenwood Library @ 8016 Greenwood Av. No. in Seattle @ 10:15am
- Fri. Feb. 22 – Insert Ballots & Mail ARSCE News (Mar./Apr. Issue)
- Wed. Mar. 13 – Ballots due in ARSCE P.O. Box
- Wed. Mar. 13 – ARSCE Spring Luncheon
- Fri. Mar. 15 – Count Ballots
- Tues. Mar. 26 – News Deadline (May/Jun. Issue)
- Wed. Apr. 10 – Executive Board Mtg./Greenwood Library @ 8016 Greenwood Av. No. in Seattle @ 10:15am

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

#### Application for Membership: The Association of 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$12.00. Fiscal year is July 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 send it (mail or email) 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 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 Seattle City Employees  
P.O. Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385 Attn: Pam Baer  
Or Apply online at: <http://arsce.org/membershipapp3.htm>**