

ARSCE

ACTIVE & RETIRED SEATTLE CITY EMPLOYEES

NEWS



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

Website: www.arsce.org

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

January/February, 2016

Volume 43, No. 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Masterjohn

Well here I am again in Chandler, Arizona at a friend's house—Tim Douglas. Tim is an ARSCE (Active & Retired Seattle City Employees) member and was kind enough to invite me down for 3 weeks of sun and golf. I am beginning to think that I am a jinx because the first day there we had rain with a great thunder and lightning storm. As I sat outside, writing this on November 1st, in tee-shirt and shorts, waiting to go golfing in a couple of hours (then at 9:30 am), I know why so many people come here for the winter. Karen and Diana both decided to stay home and enjoy the cold and rain I understood you all had been getting up there, so it was just Tim and me down there. And no, we were not just sitting around in our unmentionables drinking beer and watching football, (we were doing some of that, but not in our unmentionables) as our wives said we would.

Though this paper won't be out until late December, I still want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a wonderful Christmas holiday, and a safe and a happy New Year. Can you believe it is almost 2016!?!

I understand the City and the Coalition of City Unions have reached a tentative agreement on a new contract. The part that interests retirees is the proposal on a new pension plan that will start in January of 2017—if the agreement is approved by the membership. It is still a Defined Benefit plan as is our current plan. It will only effect new employees who are hired after January 1st, 2017. It is my understanding these employees will be contributing less into the fund along with the City matching a percentage. It will all be going into the same fund as the current employees are paying into.

I met with Ken Nakatsu this week and he informed me the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System (SCERS) has signed a contract with Vitech to develop and implement a new pension administration system. It should take about a year to convert everything that is on cards now into electronic records. SCERS has started the recruitment search for the position of Executive Director of the Employees' Retirement System. We will miss Ken Nakatsu, now serving as Interim Executive Director, when he leaves sometime next summer.

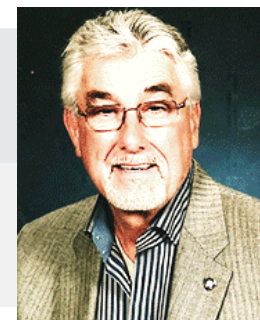
Note: Since we are not getting a Social Security COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) this year, the 1.5% COLA that retirees will have begun receiving, starting with the 1st of December check, will help some.

In closing, I want to thank all those who decided to run for ARSCE's Executive Board. You can find their bio's in this issue of ARSCE News on page 4.



YOUR PENSION NEWS

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



Unions Reach Tentative Agreement on City's SCERS II Pension Plan

The City was considering many options to reducing costs when providing retirement benefits to future employees. The 2013 Inter-departmental Teams (IDT) Report Plan Options had studied a variety of plan schemes to reduce cost to the City (Plan Sponsor). All of which, by reducing cost, would also reduce benefits to future participants. The report options included Defined Benefit (DB) Plans with reduced benefits; Hybrid Plans with a Defined Benefit plus a Defined Contribution (DC) parts to it; then a Defined Contribution only plan. These options were developed prior to the current Executive Administration.

Remember that any new Pension Plan would only affect NEW HIRES.

Remember that any new Pension Plan would only affect NEW HIRES. The U. S. Constitution and a multitude of state and local laws protect the earned pension benefits of current participants, which means current retirees and active employees at the City.

Somewhat concerning is the current economic forecast predicting lower than expected returns for the next 5 to 7 years, coupled with the SCERS (Seattle City Employees' Retirement System) Plan's inability to maintain a Funding Ratio above 70% since the Great Recession of 2008. Our highest responsibility is to keep the promise to our retirees and all the current employees. I say that as a current trustee and as labor representative to the SCERS Plan.

Unions Reach Tentative Agreement...continued from page 1

Any new SCERS Plan (SCERS II) would have to take into consideration proper and sustainable funding to the current SCERS Plan (SCERS I). The City's proposal provides that all contributions from both SCERS's Plans would be invested in the current SCERS investment portfolio. That would pool the risk and increase the investment gains. In addition, the City would continue to invest an additional 9.9% of payroll contribution above the required SCERS II City contribution rate to help fund the SCERS I unfunded liability.

You have heard me say before that I believe the current SCERS Plan is sustainable. But, my view is not necessarily supported by many of the expert investment and actuarial advisors to the plan. The SCERS rate of return has not met the expected return rate 7.5% for the last two years, as stated before, our funding ratio remains below 70%. I find that the viability of the current SCERS Plan requires that we consider reducing the future employee liabilities with less cost. We can't ignore that based on the current facts.

The new plan, called SCERS II, would provide the following benefits and costs:

	SCERS II	SCERS I
Normal Cost:	11.9%	15%
Multiplier:	1.75%	2.00%
Maximum Years:	N/A	30 years
Maximum Pension:	N/A	60%*
Final Average Salary:	60 months	24 months
Minimum Retirement Age		
30 years of service:	N/A	Any Age
20 Plus years of service	55	52
10 Plus years of service	57	57
5 Plus years of service	60	62
Normal Retirement Age:	Rule of 85**	Rule of 80**
Early Retirement Reduction: For each year before normal Retirement age.		
20 Plus years of service:	***	5% per year
5 to 19 Years of service:		3% per year
Maximum Benefit		
Alternative pension calculation:	All pensions based on tables	Annuity based on 2x contribution plus interest
Cost of Living Adjustment:	Same as current Plan	Fixed 1.5% annual with a 65% purchasing power floor
Employee Contribution:	7.00%	10.03%
Employer Contribution:	4.9%	15.73%
City's additional Contribution:	9.97%	
Total Contributions:	23.87%	25.76%

At the time of this writing, the City has not given their revised proposal to the Unions in writing. So, what is presented here in this article maybe subject to additional revision.

The journey to this point has been arduous. The first challenge was getting past the IDT Report option of a DC Plan. Second, was the withdrawal of a Cash Balance Plan Proposal and getting to a true DB Plan. Third, improving the City's DB

Plan proposal for early retirement (Rule of 90 to a Rule of 85). Then finally, moving the implementation from January 2016 to January of 2017.

Reducing benefits to future members of the SCERS Plan is contrary to normal goals and objectives of Labor Unions. But, the Great Recession changed the calculus of how we approach the challenges on how to maintain our DB plans. Our primary responsibility is to the current plan participants. Remember, since 1929, the current SCERS Plan has been improved to what exists today. As the economy improves the employee representatives will have opportunities to improve the SCERS II benefits as was done to the current SCERS I plan.

**Subject to Minimum Benefit provision. Pension may be higher in some cases.*

***Lesser of 65, or when age plus service equals 85 or 80 respectively.*

****Lesser of 8% for each year of age from age of 65 and 4% for each year that the sum of the members age and service is short of the Rule of 85.*

Essential Telephone Numbers And Web Addresses

ARSCE: 425.443.3799
(Change of Address/Membership Questions)
E-mail: financial.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/seniors

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: Active & 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) John Masterjohn, President
Barbara Graham, Vice President
Joanne Kinsella, Recording Secretary
Victoria Troisi, Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Paschke, Treasurer
Lee Sattler, Editor

5) Bondholders, Mortgages, and Security Holders: None
6) The Association of Retired Seattle City Employees, d/b/a Active & 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 annual dues are \$12.00 (July 1-June 30). Semi-annual dues are \$6.00 (For new members joining January 1-June 30). Opinions stated by various writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policy of ARSCE.

Contact us at www.arsce.org
Or telephone us at 425.443.3799

Duffer's Corner

By Joe Matthias



Volunteer Park ~ Part 2

Volunteer Park sits on forty-five acres at the north end of Capitol Hill. It is, quite factually, the most prominent and historically appealing park in the City park system. There are a number of reasons for this.

First there is the reservoir. Water for early Seattle, and still today, comes from the Cedar River Watershed. Pumped to the City, there was a real need for a means to store it for continual use by the population. With the improvements to the park underway and the size of the park, it was determined to build a reservoir there. Completed in 1901, it was originally gravity fed—meaning the pressure of the water at that height would be enough to force the water through the water pipes to the waiting public. The reservoir is still in use today, only more as a stopgap in case of a real need than as a regular source.

Coupled with the reservoir is the water tower. Built by the Water Department as a storage unit, it served two purposes. One, obviously, was for water storage. And two, to second as an observation deck. This was promoted by the Olmsted Brothers as early as 1901 as they envisioned an observation tower in their future park plans that would take advantage of the height of the hill to give viewers a sweeping 360 degree view of the area. When the water tower need became real they saw their opportunity and incorporated a combination water storage tower/observation platform. Completed in 1906, it was composed of 107 steps circling the tower and terminating at a platform some 75 feet off the ground that encircled the tower and afforded fantastic views, then as it still does today. An interesting side note here is the rough brickwork on the outside of the tower. So much so that local adventurers find it quite exhilarating as a makeshift scaling wall to practice their skills.

Near the water tower is the Seattle Asian Art Museum. Originally the Seattle Art Museum, it was built entirely with funds from Richard Fuller and his mother and gifted to the City upon its completion in 1933. In 1991 the Seattle Art Commission moved to the new Seattle Art Museum in the heart of the City. After it was left abandoned for three years, the facility reopened in 1994 as the Seattle Asian Art Museum. The Olmstead Brothers argued against building an arts museum on the park grounds as they saw it interfering with the theme of the park and an infringement on the vast open spaces enjoyed at that time, an argument that has proven true. Yet to imagine the park today without the museum is unfathomable. Razed to build the structure was the original concrete pagoda/ bandstand that had graced the park since its inception. Though a new entertainment pavilion has been built since to replace it, the original charm has been lost forever.

The Conservatory sits north of the museum near the park's northern boundary and stands out as a crowning achievement of early architecture. Following the Alaska Yukon Exposition, a bond issue was passed for parks improvements. This two million dollar venture went to improvements throughout the Seattle park system, though the lion's share was earmarked for Volunteer Park. The idea of a magnificent glass conservatory had been in the works for some time then and passage of the bond issue finally gave it a green light. Designed by the Olmstead Brothers, it was loosely based on the design of the Crystal Palace in London, England. It was built entirely with labor supplied by Seattle Park Department employees,



Inside The Conservatory

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probably only one of a very few that can boast the distinction. Completed in 1912, it is composed of 3,426 panes of glass originally framed in swamp cedar. Due to time, poor maintenance, and nature those frames were replaced several times over the years until, finally in 2014, all being housed in aluminum. Above the entrance sits the lunette, or peacock window, which has the unique feature of being the one surviving piece of glass still in the original wood casing.

The Conservatory is a five room structure, each room housing a completely different theme. The main foyer sits in the middle with two rooms to the east and two to the west. To get to the outside rooms you will need to pass through the middle rooms. The main foyer, known as the Center Palm House, enjoys a domed roof and houses among other plants a fantastic array of orchids. Most of the special events, weddings, etc., are conducted here.

To the west the center room is known as the Fern Room and displays—FERNs (surprise). The outer room is the Bromeliad Room housing bromeliads, or members of the pineapple family. To the east the center room is known as the Cyclamen House and displays seasonal flowers. The outer room is the Cactus Room also for obvious reasons. Each is unique in their individuality and ability to blend as a single unit. At the time of its construction it was only one of four on the west coast, and possibly six throughout the nation. Most of the others are closed or gone now due to lack of maintenance and weather damage from wind, rain, and earthquakes. I believe the one in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is still standing, though whether it is being utilized or not I couldn't say.

The Conservatory today runs on a regular schedule hosting displays and special events year round. To honor and oversee this was designated to one Mr. Ivan. Mr. Ivan inhabited the conservatory sometime in the recent past and was in charge, primarily, of pest control. A dubious honor seeing as he was the conservatory cat. The original Mr. Ivan died many years ago, but he lives on in his successor, the esteemed Mr. Ivan Von Katzen. He and a park staff of less than five work tirelessly to keep this unique structure open.

As an interesting side note, the Volunteer Park Conservatory is a registered repository for the placement of illegally imported plants seized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Said plants are housed for a minimum of thirty days and may be moved to other like facilities, but are not for sale.

Also amid the park setting are many works of art, statues, and bits of memorabilia worth taking a minute to appreciate. Children enjoy the new kiddie pool which replaced the original near the north boundary.

So there you have it. Its beginnings marked in the then wilderness of north Capitol Hill, to its glory days as it sat among the mansions and estates of Seattle's wealthy, to its demise with the rest of the neighborhood, to its rising again as one of Seattle's truly unique parks. Should you find you have an extra day or two you may wish to linger in Volunteer Park and enjoy what the founding fathers were kind enough to leave for us.

Think about it while I dig around for something else to ramble on about.

The Duffer, Bye-bye.

Joe Matthias, Lighting Department (Lineman), Retired

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE MARCH, 2016 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.

Veronica Baca

I have been an alternate member to the Board and welcome the opportunity to run again. I remain happy to contribute whatever I can to this great group. Working for SPU I used to do finance, rates, accounting, strategic Planning and Implementation, HR, Facilities Planning, and I ended with Project Manager Advising. Now I'm a Life Coach and I love it! Since the 4th quarter of 2013 I write a short article for the bi-monthly ARSCE newsletter called "It's Your Life". I'm at your service.

Bob Chandler

Retired in 2014 after more than 40 years with the City. Was the Assistant Director for Special projects in the Department of Transportation at the time of retirement. Started in the Engineering Department and also served in the Management and Budget Office, Planning Office, Seattle Public Utilities, and Transportation. Wide variety of experience both at work and with outside activities and hobbies. Would like to ensure that the retirement system not only cares for current retirees, but also provides for those employees looking forward to retirement in the future.

Barbara Graham

As your current ARSCE Vice President, I chair the Legislation Committee and sit on the Communications, Elections, Finance, and Programs Committees. 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 best help members. I also welcome current employees, who are now eligible for full ARSCE membership, to join us. I enjoyed over 30 years of City service—retiring from the Engineering Department in 1996.

Florence Harrell

Florence worked 29 years for the City of Seattle—10 years as Legislative Assistant to Seattle City Council President Sam Smith, followed by 19 years in the Departments of Community Development and Housing and Human Services, and the Office of Housing (these departments underwent several merges and reorganizations) as Housing Specialist and Project Manager, Community Project Coordinator and Asset Management Specialist. These several post-Council positions involved significant work with City/Seattle/Federal financing of low-income housing projects, community liaison insuring citizen participation in the planning and implementation of projects, and monitoring compliance of housing projects' affordability restrictions, financial reporting and physical maintenance requirements. Florence retired from City employment in 2001 and she's subsequently worked for Macy's, Romex Company Construction and The Port of Seattle. Florence's extensive City and private work experience and loyal support of the Seattle Mariners all these years shows she can stay the course as a member of the Executive Board of the Active and Retired Seattle City Employees.

Anne Miller

Anne has served as Board member since 2013—helping organize meetings and activities for ARSCE members. She retired in 2001 after 27 years in Transportation as a Cost Accounting Supervisor. She has volunteered at Second Harvest in Seattle and served as President of SEDSO (Seattle Engineering Dept. Service Organization) in the '90s when there were over 750 members. She is interested in helping ARSCE by making sure we have lots of fun activities and loves to plan parties!

Mike Nagan

Retired after 30 years working for the Building, Administrative Services, Information Services, and Executive Departments—many reorgs! Worked with many City departments including the uniformed services and the utilities. For many years I have committed time and effort to several nonprofits: Celtic Arts NW (founder and former president), the Evergreen State Volkssport

Association (current president), and the Emerald City Wanderers (all offices). Hoping to contribute more to ARSCE.

My familiarity with the City and its hundreds of services to citizens, with many current and former City employees, and with the ins and outs of nonprofit organizations add up to good experience for the ARSCE Board. I have been impressed with the performance of the Board and its officers, and see no reason for major change. We must continue to carefully track and participate in the City's discussion of pension system "reform" and the Employees' Retirement System's major IT project. And, we need to expand participation of retirees and current employees in our meetings and functions—a never-ending challenge!

Kathy Ray

Kathy retired from the Seattle Fire Department in 1996 with 28 years of service. She worked in the Chief's Office and the Training Division. After retirement, she worked in the accounting department for Stadium Flowers in Everett for 8 years. An incumbent ARSCE Board member, Kathy has an interest in continuing to serve on the Board. She currently serves on the Election and Programs committees. She was Co-Chair of the Programs committee for 3 years. She has a special interest in recruiting new members from active City employees and encouraging more retired employees to attend ARSCE activities.

Ed Steyh

Ed has served the ARSCE Board as an Alternate for the last several years. He is concerned about the lack of new members and is working hard with other Board members to increase membership and participation. ARSCE is dedicated to protecting retirees' pensions and benefits—and a strong membership base will make this easier. Ed retired from the City in 2003 after a 30 year career. He held a number of positions over the years, with his last being the Solid Waste Contract Manager in Seattle Public Utilities. After retirement from the City, he did some consulting work for several jurisdictions in preparing both solid waste RFPs (Request for Proposal) and collection contract specifications.

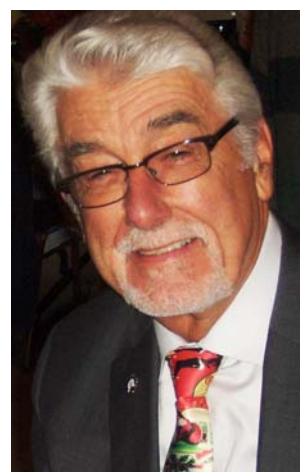
Victoria Troisi

Hello, my name is Victoria Troisi. I started my career with the Engineering Dept. in December of 1990 and will retire in June of 2016—still working for that same Department, although we have been through various name changes. I am thankful to have a good pension that enables me to retire, and I want to help keep that option going for those who will follow behind me into retirement. Staying involved is in my DNA, and it is important to me to stay up on changes in our retirement funds and being a member of the Board is a good way to accomplish this. Getting more current/active employees involved in ARSCE is something that I will work on. At present I am the financial secretary of ARSCE and will continue in that position. Thank you for your consideration in voting for me.

Jeannette Voiland

Born in California, but spent most of my growing up in West Seattle. After completing teacher training, I earned a Master of Librarianship at the UW. My first job in 1974 was at Seattle Public Library's Municipal Reference Library (MRL) on the 3rd floor of the old Muni Building. I so enjoyed getting to know many current ARSCE members during a wonderful 18 years there. After the MRL's 1992 closure, I worked at the Central Library in Government Publications, then Special Collections (local history and genealogy). I retired in December 2013 after 39 wonderful years. The day after I retired, I went to my first ARSCE luncheon. I enjoyed it so much I've tried not to miss one since. I was active in AFSCME's Local 2083 at the library, and served in various offices representing the interests of library workers. I look forward to helping our City retirees in much the same way! My primary interest is making sure our independent retirement system stays strong to support current and future City retirees. It would be an honor to serve on the Board.

ARSCE's Christmas Luncheon ~ Review in Pictures ~



Parks Department Retiree News

By Alan Hovland

Happy New Year! This year the Parks' system is 132 years old—starting with a donation from the Denny Family at the present site of Denny Park. The current Park is some 85 feet lower than the original site due to the Denny Regrade and "...so the steam shovels and tram cars continued to feed the conveyor belts that filled the barges that dumped into Elliott Bay and by 1930 the park was a flat, bare slope." (Sherwood Files for Denny Park.) The award-winning Administration Building was built in 1948.

Don Sherwood relates a colorful history of Denny Park, as he did for most other City of Seattle Parks. (www.seattle.gov/parks/history)

Parks' Retiree November Luncheon: Three veterans, who each spent a longtime working at the Department of Parks and Recreation attended the event: Jessie Howell, Ted Lockhart, and Russ Bean. Ted had attended the Veteran's Day Ceremony



Russ Bean (left) & Jessie Howell



Ted Lockhart

at Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery which is connected by history to the Denny Park story. Gary Bean, Lee Werle, Jim Demonez, and Jim Maxwell also attended the lunch.

Mary Rasmussen retired as the Electrical Shop Crew Chief on November 3rd after 41 years of service. She was honored by over 200 Parks and Recreation staff including the new Superintendent Jesus Aguirre, the former Superintendent Christopher Williams, and so many others. Her mother Margie Jeroue, retired, was present. Mary had become an Electrical Helper in the 1970s and thanked Dick Richards, the Facility Maintenance Director at that time, for developing such a program. Michele Daly, Andrea Eyre, and many others welcomed Mary to retirement with the ARSCE Facebook page.



Mary Rasmussen Send off Party!



February is Black History Month

Brian Hulbert has had a serious operation.

Terry Jacoby is in an assisted living facility on Magnolia.

Jeff Skinner retired as a Recreation Coordinator after 43 years of service. His retirement party at Bitter Lake Community Center was attended by many current and retired staff. Virginia Swanson, Margret Anthony, and Joe Lovell were only three of the attendees. David Gilbertson is still working after 47 years, but promises he is really going to retire by the spring.

February is Black History Month and is recognized in the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department in honor of the many local African Americans who worked for the Department, grew up in Seattle attending the youth programs, or served on the Park Board. I especially remember the great Superintendent Walter Hundley, the first African American superintendent serving from 1977 to 1988. Mr. Hundley developed many programs, brought financial accountability to the Department, and helped many people develop in their careers.

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

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

Complete Our Circle



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

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 every month at the Old Country Buffet, 4022 Factoria Square Mall, Bellevue, WA at 11:00am. Remember to mark your calendar for our 2016 luncheon dates: January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 12, October 3, November 7, and December 5. Now that you have these dates, mark them down on your calendar for a monthly reminder. We encourage all former employees of MTD/DAS/ESD to join us at our luncheons each month. As I've stated before, wives are very much welcomed. The wives seem to enjoy joining in the various conversations and have become a real part in our luncheon group.

Our October luncheon was attended by a group of twenty-one. In November we had a group of twenty-three. I want to welcome Al Brittenham's wife Rose, who attended the November luncheon. We hope that Rose will be attending all of the time. No matter what the size of the group, we all enjoy the opportunity to visit with everyone.

Birthday wishes to the following: Idona Bentler, Dave Lozier, "Tosh" Okamoto in the month of October. A November birthday was celebrated by Sandy Cook. We wish them all birthday wishes and continued good health.

I apologize for not posting any birthday pictures this time. I was having a problem with my computer when this column was due and I was unable to retrieve any pictures. I do have one picture to post given to me by Lloyd Hansen. It was taken in Yakima, 1980, after Mt. St. Helens erupted. The picture is of the many City of Seattle employees that were



City of Seattle Employees sent to help in
Yakima after Mt. St. Helens erupted.

sent to Yakima to aid in the clean-up of ash. I do not have all the names of those pictured, but I will share those I have names for: Glen Swarhout, Les Hawley, Les Hughes, Al Smith, Del Schwartz, John Hennessey, Ron Shockey, Andreason, and Lloyd Hansen.

I am sorry I don't have all of the names, but those of you who were there will remember.

You can reach Mr. Robertson at oldtimers@arsce.org



Celebrate
Monday
February 15th,
2016

Fellowship All Over Town



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Robert Youngs, City Light

Janet McKenzie, Housing

Memorials

John Randall, Engineering
In memory of Joe Ralph, Engineering
In memory of Fred Williams, Engineering

In Memory

Note: Names with asterisk (*) were ARSCE members

Lope N. Aben
Seattle Center
Died: 10/12/15
Age: 77

Mary Atkinson
Vested
Died: 10/29/15
Age: 84

Kenneth Lane Boyd
Vested
Died: 9/12/15
Age: 86

Muriel Sanders Bozarth
Vested
Died: 10/13/15
Age: 97

Gordon Carlson*
Seattle City Light
Retired: 06/1990
Died: 10/10/15
Age: 90

Mary L. Copley*
KC Health
Retired: 10/1980
Died: 9/28/15
Age: 97

Margaret Davis
Vested
Died: 9/10/15
Age: 92

Beto DeLeon
Vested
Died: 11/13/15
Age: 62

Eunice P. Duncan
KC Health
Died: 10/23/15
Age: 92

Helen M. Ellefson
Vested
Died: 10/25/15
Age: 97

Donald Gill
City Light
Died: 9/22/15
Age: 75

John M. Heathcote
Seattle Center
Died: 10/23/15
Age: 67

August H. Holzer*
Transit
Retired: 01/1977
Died: 10/29/15
Age: 99

J.D. Jones
Vested
Died: 10/2/15
Age: 95

Alvin B. Lee
City Light
Died: 9/28/15
Age: 64

Vincent T. Lyons
DPD
Died: 10/29/15
Age: 72

Sachiko N. Nakashima
Vested
Died: 9/27/15
Age: 89

Harry Newman
Vested
Died: 6/4/15
Age: 86

Nancy Peachey
Law
Died: 10/29/15
Age: 69

James R. Printz
Vested
Died: 10/25/15
Age: 84

Robert Seeklander*
Water
Retired: 11/1996
Died: 9/13/15
Age: 74

Victor Short
City Light
Died: 9/29/15
Age: 100

Deborah D. Skaw*
Parks
Retired: 07/2002
Died: 10/8/15
Age: 57

Richard Skeers
Vested
Died: 10/5/15
Age: 97

Betty M. Taylor
Vested
Died: 11/8/15
Age: 91

Kathleen G. Taylor*
Beneficiary
Died: 10/1/15
Age: 106

Wilma N. Vance*
Beneficiary
Died: 9/29/15
Age: 90

Della M. Wenzl*
Police
Retired: 11/1994
Died: 9/3/15
Age: 95

Betty F. Wysingle
Vested
Died: 10/15/15
Age: 75



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



MONDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2016

Send ARSCE Your News, Short Stories & Poems

You can send your information to:

ARSCE News

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

Or email your news & information to:

arscenews@arsce.org

NEXT NEWS DEADLINE:

January 19th, 2016

(All submittals become the property of ARSCE.)

BOOK NOTES*By Lorry Garratt, Library***A ROOM FULL OF BONES. By Elly Griffiths ~ 2012**

When forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway arrives to supervise the opening of a coffin containing the bones of a medieval bishop, she finds the body of the museum's curator lying dead on the floor. Soon thereafter the body of the museum's wealthy owner is also found dead in his stables. Ruth and DCI Harry Nelson cross paths once again and Ruth's acute insight and wry humor both help and hinder Nelson's investigation which includes druids, superstition, and an Australian neighbor who has come to Wales to return aboriginal skulls to their native place.

CONSENT TO KILL. By Vince Flynn ~ 2005

This is billed as a thriller but that really is a major understatement. CIA agent Mitch Rapp is married to a beautiful TV anchorwoman and while his job as one of the deadliest assassins puts him in constant peril, they consider their life a good one. Then he "annoys" a Saudi billionaire who puts out a 20 million dollar contract on him and a lethal husband and wife team of assassins comes after him while he is also laid up by knee surgery. And that's only halfway through the book!

OUR SOULS AT NIGHT. By Kent Haruff ~ 2015

A slim novel with short chapters, elegant and poignant in its telling of a love story between two elders. Addie Moore and Louis Waters are neighbors in Holt, Colorado, and have known each other for decades. They have lost their beloved spouses and their children do not live close. Their empty houses are lonely, especially at night, until they begin to spend the nights together, gently talking and sharing...and then parts of their days. Before long family members intervene. This is Haruff's last novel before he died at 71 in 2014.

CIRCLING THE SUN. By Paula McLain ~ 2015

The genre is biographical fiction and the subject is famed aviator and renowned racehorse trainer Beryl Markham. The other equally important subject is Kenya, the country that formed the independent and complicated woman who would be world famous. She is deeply affected by her beloved father who raised her after her mother abandoned them. And she had several relationships within the wealthy British expatriate and racing community which made her both famous and infamous. The most lasting love of her life was Denys Finch Hatton of the Robert Redford "Out of Africa" fame.

ORIENT. By Christopher Bollen ~ 2015

Orient is a placid community on Long Island, a haven for real estate developers, the well-to-do, and artists. When Mills Chevern (not his real name) arrives at the end of the summer, it is the beginning of a string of unsettling events which include several deaths under mysterious circumstances. The tension grows and the paranoia spirals. The ending is shocking and then Mills slips quietly away to assume a new name.

THE OUTSMARTING OF CRIMINALS. By Steven Rigolosh ~ 2014

A cozy mystery in the gentle read genre. Miss Felicity Prim leaves her home in NYC after being mugged and decides to embark on a new career—namely outsmarting criminals. After buying a cottage in a small Connecticut hamlet, she is propelled on her way by the discovery of a dead body in her own basement which can be reached only by knowing a secret lock. In searching for the identity of the corpse she discovers unexpected info in her father's own journals which leads her into danger from unknown sources. A witty read peopled by lovable characters.

TOO BAD TO DIE. By Francine Matthews ~ 2015

A literate and sophisticated "what if" historical thriller. In 1943 FDR, Churchill, and Stalin gather in Teheran ostensibly to coordinate plans against Nazi Germany. Alan Turing, head of the British secret Enigma Project, has discovered a German operator known as "The Fencer" who is going to assassinate the three leaders during the conference, but he is unable to identify him. Ian Fleming, naval intelligence officer and future author of the James Bond series, is given the assignment, but finds himself frustrated when his superiors view his warnings with skepticism. Historical figures and actual facts combine and it's a breathtaking read (even when you know what didn't happen!).

THE BOSTON GIRL. By Anita Diamant ~ 2015

A wonderful and truly gripping story of a young Jewish woman growing up in early 20th C. Boston. Addie Baum, an octogenarian grandmother in 1985, relates long ago history to a beloved granddaughter, answering the question "How did I get to be the woman I am today?" The answer: by living a fascinating life. This is a stunning look into the past with a plucky heroine to cheer for.

Contact Ms. Garratt at booknotes@arsce.org

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). 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.



**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 7TH, 2016
TIME TO HAVE A PARTY!**

**DON'T
FORGET!**



**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 14TH,
2016**



The Film Guy

Some Favorites on DVD
By Jim Mohundro



Fritz Lang, Director: Comedy Takes a Holiday

In the 1930s Germany and Austria lost many artists who were fortunate enough to leave that country before they, and it, were lost. On the same day Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels viewed Fritz Lang's just-completed thriller *The Testament of Dr. Mabuse*, and saw that Lang had slipped Nazi slogans and ideas into the mouth of a madman, Goebbels banned the film, but, ironically, offered Lang the job of running Germany's great UFA Film Studios. Lang, knowing he'd not be long for that world, or any other, left Germany, and brought west his monocle, his experience with German expressionism, and his special feel for what became known later as *film noir*. The British Film Institute called Lang "The Master of Darkness."

These films need no ghosts to do their haunting:



Metropolis (1927) is a silent classic about labor and management, oppression and redemption, and set in an alternate future. This masterpiece of production design has been substantially restored to its original

glory in Kino Lorber's latest DVD release, making that version the one to enjoy. (In German, with English intertitles.)

The Testament of Dr. Mabuse (1933) is Lang's take on cops and a seemingly indefatigable master criminal. Madness, police incompetence and corruption, and humor co-exist surprisingly well. (In German, with English intertitles.)

In **M** (1931), Peter Lorre emerges from minor comedy work in the Austrian theatre to become a madman and is forever after typecast in dramas and in comedies as foreign spy, criminal and/or insane murderer. (In German, with English subtitles.)

Liliom (1934) Charles Boyer and Madeleine Ozeray are star-crossed lovers in this romantic fantasy based on the Ference

Molnar play—later the source for Rogers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*. (In French, with English subtitles.)

Fury (1936) Lang's first American film stars an intense Spencer Tracy with solid support by Sylvia Sydney in this story of an innocent man facing both the fury of a lynch mob and his own.

Man Hunt (1941) is based on Geoffrey Household's novel *Rogue Male*. Walter Pidgeon, before he settles in as the stalwart Mr. Miniver, is a hunter who may or may not have sighted his rifle's scope on Adolph Hitler, and is later tracked down in England by German agent George Sanders.

In **Ministry of Fear** (1944), from Graham Greene's novel, Ray Milland, released from an English mental asylum, visits a quiet country village and begins to doubt his emotional recovery as he stumbles upon some folks who might be Nazis.

Glenn Ford is solid as the lead in 1953's **The Big Heat**, from the William T. McGovern story, but Lee Marvin and Gloria Grahame, in early key roles, bring memorable performances to this police corruption tale set in an unidentified large city—perhaps New York or Chicago. It couldn't happen here, could it?



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

And here's a bonus that is not in my principal picks because current DVD prints do not include English subtitles: Lang's **Hangmen Also Die** (1943). It's a Nazi-occupied Prague-set fictionalized account of the Czech patriots who dealt with real-life Reinhard Heydrich, Deputy/Acting Reich-Protector of Bohemia and Moravia (now the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic). "Protector" had a very different meaning for The Hangman.

You can reach Mr. Mohundro at filmguy@arsce.org

DONATIONS TO ARSCE

Since ARSCE operates on a limited budget, donations are always welcome and very much appreciated. ARSCE is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donation will be tax deductible within the limits established by the Internal Revenue Service.

Regular donations are noted in the "Golden Contributions" section of ARSCE News listing the donor's name and department retired from.

Donations in memory of someone are noted in the "Memorials" section of ARSCE News. The name of the deceased person for whom the donation is made and the donor's name and department retired from are listed. If you would like the family of the deceased person notified of your donation, please include their name and address. A letter will then be sent to them telling them of your memorial donation.

Mail donations to ARSCE, PO Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385; or go online to www.arsce.org to contribute. You may also fill out the "Membership Application Form" on page 12 of each issue of ARSCE News, or donations can be made utilizing a luncheon reservation form. If you have any questions, please call Victoria Troisi at 425-443-3799.

ARSCE Donation Application

Please check appropriate box.

Golden Contribution Memorial

Donor's Name _____

Dept. Retired from _____

For Memorial Only:

In Memory of _____

Dept. Retired from _____

To Notify Family of Donation ~ Provide the following:

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Fill in form, clip and send donations to ARSCE, PO Box 75385, Seattle, WA 98175-0385; or go online to www.arsce.org to contribute. You may also fill out the "Membership Application Form" on page 12 of each issue of ARSCE News, or donations can be made utilizing a luncheon reservation form. If you have any questions, please call Victoria Troisi at 425-443-3799.

Ramblin' Roads

By Alan Brittenham



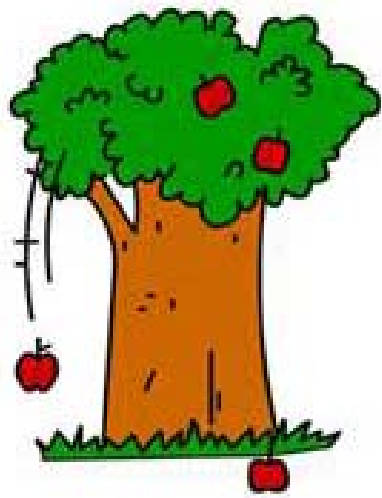
A Tree Grows...

If you travel southbound on Interstate 5 through Seattle, there is an exit from the right lane at the south end of the Duwamish valley that crosses back over the freeway and joins Martin Luther King, Jr. Way as it cuts across the Skyway hill into Renton. The exit lane becomes the left lane of the overpass, and curves into its junction with MLK Way on an arc from east to south, leaving a narrow median strip on the left shoulder that disappears as the two roads merge.

Almost every day for twenty-seven years, we traveled that road, singly or in carpool combinations that included my wife and me. And almost every one of those days, on the southbound trip, I would be eating the apple from my lunchbox as a snack on the road home. And almost every time, I would open the driver's window as we passed that narrow strip of land at 50 miles an hour, and throw out the apple core, aiming for the vegetation beyond the railing. My wife would criticize me for littering, and I would respond that apple cores are organic and I was feeding the critters that undoubtedly lived there. Each day they would huddle by the rail and wait for the manna to fall from heaven, I theorized. This went on for years.



One day, about spring of 2008 or so, my gardener wife spotted a new plant growing in the median strip. Sure enough, it was an apple tree! Over the next several years we watched it struggle to survive in an environment heavy on fumes and road dirt, and grow large enough to bear fruit. I kept waiting for it to be whacked by a mower, but to date that has not happened. It's still there. You can see it on your left as you cross over the freeway, or as you drive north on MLK Way from Renton in the left lane, if you know where to look.



One of these days, maybe, I'm gonna stop by and pick an apple off my tree. I'm not sure how to do that without getting run over, but it's a thought. Another thought that occurs to me is that if you do

something good for the environment every day, even the smallest thing, even if there are no obvious short term results, your actions in the long run can surprise you. I suspect there's a moral to this story, but I'll let you supply your own.

JUST FOR FUN

"Valentine's Day Word Search"

Find all these words in the grid, they can run in any direction, but will always be in a straight line. The leftover letters will complete this quotation:

"IF LOVE IS BLIND."



- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ADORE | FIDELITY |
| AMOUR | FLIRT |
| BOUQUET | GIFTS |
| CARDS | HEART |
| CARESS | HONEY |
| CHOCOLATES | HUGS |
| CRUSH | KEEN |
| CUPID SARROW | KISS |
| DATE | LIAISON |
| DESIRE | LOVE |
| DEVOTED | RELATIONSHIP |
| DINNER | SWEET |
| DOVES | YEARN |
| FANTASY | |

Save the Date!

ARSCE's
Spring Luncheon

Wednesday,
March 9th, 2016



ARSCE News now has a Facebook page!

When you visit www.facebook.com simply type in:

[ARSCE-Active and Retired Seattle City Employees Group](#)

There you'll enjoy the latest news from ARSCE. Find us on Facebook!

Make Your New Year's Resolutions



About the Journey, Not the Outcome

It's Your Life

By Veronica Baca

Appreciate This Community in the New Year

You can really appreciate this group of Active and Retired Seattle City Employees (ARSCE) whether you're an active employee, retired for over a decade, or newly retired. A community of people with a common past and common



present is valuable in a multitude of ways—like keeping one from feeling isolated.

As active employees, we think how enjoyable it would be if every day were a vacation day. But, in fact, sometimes in retirement there's a surprising feeling of loss. Instead of looking forward to enjoying a vacation day, a Saturday, or even a sick day, it can feel like those things don't exist. We may need to live more frugally, be more isolated, cook more meals for ourselves, and have a lot of dishes to do.

As a retiree you don't have the same challenges that you have as an active employee—obviously like the old grind, the commute, getting up on Monday morning to the alarm clock, etc.

Some of us also miss the teamwork, the clear daily purpose, the support structures, schedules, and systems (and of course the IT support!).

Turning our perspective around and turning these challenges around is a necessary step if we want to live a happy, productive life now. There's a high level of self-sufficiency required to turn it around. Appreciating the support and community of this group (ARSCE) and other resources helps a lot.

And that appreciation can really help you put yourself on the top of your own to-do list, and focus your attention on the things that not only allow you to enjoy this phase of life, but also provide others with a happy, healthy role model.

Veronica Baca retired from SPU in August, 2013 and has become a Life Coach. You may contact her at veronicabaca75@gmail.com



The View from the Buses

By Paul Pioli

Mr. Pioli's informative column will return in the next issue of ARSCE News.



2016 MEETING AND PUBLICATION DATES

Wed. Jan. 13	ARSCE Executive Board Meeting
Tues. Jan. 19	News Deadline (Mar/Apr Issue)
Wed. Feb. 10	ARSCE Executive Board Meeting
Fri. Feb. 19	Insert Ballots/Mail ARSCE News (Mar/April Issue)
Wed. Mar. 9	Spring Luncheon Meeting
Wed. Mar. 16	Ballots Due in PO Box
Fri. Mar. 18	Count Ballots
Tues. Mar. 22	News Deadline (May/June Issue)

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

Note: Calendar is subject to change by Board approval.

Application for Membership: Active & Retired Seattle City Employees

New Member Beneficiary
Address Change Dues Payment Donation

Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

E-Mail Address _____

Annual Dues: \$12.00 (7/1-6/30)

Semi-Annual Dues: \$6.00 (For new members joining 1/1-6/30)

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

Active & Retired Seattle City Employees Dues Deduction Authorization

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

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

Name (Please Print) _____ Department _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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