Fifty years ago on March 1, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps, only weeks after saying in his inaugural address, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

On March 5 at Anderson’s Store, a group of returned Peace Corps volunteers from Skagit County got together to share their transcendent, life-changing experiences serving in the corps. The gathering was one of 740 “global house parties” held throughout the world to commemorate the anniversary.

Peace Corps volunteers, who must be requested by their host countries, are required to go through three months of training and then serve for two years, fully immersed in the local cultural practices and living conditions. They receive only a small monthly stipend for living expenses while serving.

**Learning that “humans are humans”**

In 1962, newlyweds Harry and Kathy Finks, not ready to settle down in Ohio and wanting more international travel (he had been to Beirut and she had been to Japan), signed on as volunteers with one of the first groups to serve in the Philippines. “We felt more alive out in the world,” says Kathy.

“I went in thinking I was going to be a banker,” said Harry, “and I came out knowing I was going to be an educator.” Harry and Kathy served as teaching assistants, teaching English as a second language (ESL) and science. “I gained a different perspective about the importance of interpersonal relations in coping with a difficult life,” said Kathy. They still maintain close friendships with some of their former students.

Also wanting to travel, Phyllis Bravinder and husband Keith were assigned to Ethiopia that same year. Phyllis and Keith (now deceased) taught history, geography, and ESL in high school in Addis Ababa their first year. In a small town the next year, they taught 90 students (or tried to) in a one-room, tin-roofed building during the rainy season until the new school was built.

They were assigned to Malawi in 1965–67, where Keith had a staff position. They took their five-month-old baby along on the adventure, and their second child was born there.

“I learned that humans are humans, no matter where they are,” said Phyllis (continued on page 16)
Letters

Farm project seeks help

Dear Guemes community,

I want to thank all of you who have provided support and helped out at different points in the development of Gaia Rising Farm. For those who don’t know about it, this is a nonprofit organization I have been working on for the past three years to focus on growing staple crops and seasonal produce to provide food security in an increasingly uncertain world.

I am currently taking a farming business class and writing a business plan, to be completed the end of March. I truly believe this project can succeed and benefit the island in many ways. My hope is that the community will have faith in it and that more people will contribute to give it the support it needs right now.

The project is going full steam ahead as we prepare for our first season as a member-supported farm, where members share in the harvest. The “to do” list seems endless and there are many tasks that others could take over or assist with. These include writing an article for the media, managing correspondence, finding prospective young farmers, organizing the midsummer festival, fundraising, etc. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Call or e-mail and tell me what you would like to do, or just ask what needs doing.

Thanks so much.
—Susan Ferrel (Sequoia)
293-2980, suedforpeace@gmail.com

Plant sale and garden tour

Dear island gardeners,

On Saturday, April 30, we are hosting the first annual Early Spring Plant Sale Tour. A few island gardeners have been dividing and potting up perennials and starting flower and vegetable seeds. This is a great time of year to get plants in the ground before our dryer summer weather begins.

On the day of the sale, pick up a map of participating gardens at Sally Stapp’s North Beach garden, 5191 Lewis Lane, or Joan Petrick’s garden, 4925 South Shore Drive, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. You’ll get to see some unique Guemes gardens while scoring great deals on proven plants, starts, and seeds. Proceeds go to individual gardeners and/or to benefit local causes.

Call if you want your garden to be included. Happy digging!
—Sally Stapp (293-9474) and Joan Petrick (293-4438)

Island History Book Reprinted

The book was originally published by the Guemes Island Community Club but has been out of print for many years, and the remaining copy in the Library is in tatters in a sealed plastic bag. MJ Andrak thought it deserved resurrection. She and Joseph Miller got permission from Elmore’s 90-year-old daughter to reprint the book. They added Guemes Gleanings, by Gertrude Howard, first published by the Community Club in 1981 as a brief continuation of Elmore’s work.

While not a comprehensive history of the island, the book begins with descriptions of the island’s first inhabitants—ancestors of the Samish and Lummi Indians. British and Spanish explorers appear, followed by settlers from the South and Midwest as early as 1865. Elmore relates interesting anecdotes and vignettes about notable citizens of the island, including the often inebriated poet and publisher of the Guemes Beachcomber, Charlie Gant. He labeled the paper “Independent-Published every Thursday in the Interest of the Heartbeats of Humanity.” Subscriptions were one dollar per year.

Howard’s additions fill in further details about settlers and island history. In 1866 Humphrey O’Bryant “planted a large orchard of 400 apple trees and 225 prune trees.” He paddled by canoe to Victoria to personally pick out his trees.

The book can be purchased at the Store and Resort on the island, or at Watermark Book Company, Pelican Bay Books, and the Red Snapper in Anacortes. It can also be downloaded for free at www.linetime.org. Proceeds from the book help support the island website LineTime.
By Karen Everett

Although the push to finish the trail to Guemes Mountain was set for the end of March, at press time it appeared that the trail won’t officially open until late May, when the ferry returns and the Washington Trail Association can arrange one more work party. That’s according to volunteer coordinator Regina Wandler of the Skagit Land Trust (SLT).

“Some unexpected snowfall slowed progress down during one of our work parties,” she said. “We are close to the top, but will still need one work party for ‘finish trail’ and [to address] some special drainage issues.”

See www.skagitlandtrust.org for information and signups for the final work parties on May 28 and 29.

One more work party will finish the trail.

By Thea LaCross

The ink was barely dry on last month’s Guemes Island Community Center Association (GICCA) meeting minutes announcing that pre-meeting dinners were set to resume, when information from the Health Department put the kibosh on that plan. Public meals—even free ones—must be prepared in a Health Department–certified kitchen, and the facilities at the Hall are far from meeting those requirements. Only true potlucks, with dishes prepared by individuals at home with no reimbursement from the organization, are legal.

The 25 or so islanders who heard this news at the GICCA meeting on April 17 were pragmatic in their reactions. Several suggested holding community potlucks a few times a year, rather than monthly. No official follow-up was planned.

The spicy moments came during the discussion of two accounting issues, which drew some heated comments from the audience. A few people criticized the new expense reimbursement form (recommended by the auditor) as being too cumbersome and restrictive. Several also took exception to treasurer Tom Butler’s position that funds should not be drawn from the unrestricted operating account (usually used for general maintenance and upkeep expenses) in order to cover costs related to the current trim project. President Leslie Tysseling said that these topics would be discussed at an upcoming executive session of the board and potential solutions will be brought back to the community.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the March meeting will be posted on www.linetime.org, and the next agenda will be posted there about a week prior to the meeting.

GICCA: No Dinner, but Plenty of Spice

As for the gravel parking lot at the foot of the trail, SLT says they are aiming for that to be finished by June, although the trust’s Michael Kirshenbaum is looking into the possibility of using a Guemes Island company for excavation, gravel, and other work needed for the lot, rather than waiting until the ferry returns. As of now, that is undecided.

“The trail will officially open in late May,” says Wandler, “although it is open for use right now.” She emphasized that bicycles are not allowed “because they tear up the trail so quickly.” Dogs on leashes are allowed.

Mountain-Trail Parking Lot Delayed
New Ferry Fares Accepted by County Commissioners

By Judith Horton

On March 15, Ferry Manager Rachel Beck presented the final version of the fare increase proposal (see March issue, page 14) at a public hearing in the Board of County Commissioners’ chambers. Except for the Guemes Island Ferry Committee (FC), very few islanders attended.

Although the FC has always emphasized cost control over a fare increase, Public Works was adamant that an increase was necessary. The FC was allowed to submit an alternative proposal to the original 25 percent “across the board” increase Public Works proposed.

FC Chair Glen Veal said, “In meetings with Public Works, we were able to reach a compromise which resulted in the approximately 15 percent fare increase proposal, and this is what was presented to the board. We appreciate that Public Works and the commissioners supported the public process and were flexible in negotiating a compromise that all parties could support. We also have a commitment from Public Works to control and reduce costs where possible in the future.”

At the ferry forum on March 24 (see story, page 5), Beck said that the proposal was accepted by the commissioners, and—pending state approval—will take effect on June 1. Beck noted that current passes will be honored after that date, and that there will be a “window of opportunity” May 22–31 when passes can still be purchased at the current rate. These will also be accepted until they are used up or expire.

Ferry Alternatives: Charter Services

By Karen Everett

Nervous (even freaked out) about the ferry being down for so long? Need to get a car, truck, or other large vehicle on or off the island during the outage? Worried that if you miss the passenger ferry you are out of luck?

There are alternatives—a mix of water taxis, freight boats, and charters. They are perhaps a bit pricey, but may be worth it if you’re in a tight spot. Some leave from Skyline, some from Anacortes. Here’s the skinny, as best as I was able to determine.

Car/truck services

San Juan Marine Freight—www.sanjuanmarinefreight.com
Owner/captain Dan Crookes (yes, Betty Crookes’s son) can fit 3 dump trucks or small U-Hauls, one semi rig, or about 8 standard cars/pickups. His rate is $250 per hour but he’s got a lot of creative ways to make it work for people. 293-7575 or sanjuanenterprises@fidalgo.net.

Island Transporter—www.island-transporter.com
Their landing craft has 66 feet of deck space. Hourly rate is $250 per hour; round trip from Skyline to Guemes with cars is $500. 293-6060 or info@island-transporter.com.

Passenger-only service

Island Express Charters—www.islandexpresscharters.com
A variety of packages, possibility of $38 per passenger if enough people pool together. Reservations required in advance. 299-2875 or info@islandexpresscharters.com.

Paraclete Charter Service—www.paracletecharters.com
Carries up to 34 people. Rate is $375 per hour. Can load boat via a ladder on wheels. 293-5920 or skip@paracletecharters.com.

Arrow Launch Service—www.arrowlaunch.com
You may recall ALS was the provider of ferry-outage service in the past. A variety of vessels and rates are offered. 457-1544 or dispatch@arrowlaunch.com.
By Judith Horton

The first Guemes Island Ferry Operations Public Forum of 2011 was held at the Hall on March 24, with about 35 islanders in attendance. County officials present were Commissioner Ron Wesen, Public Works Director Henry Hash, Ferry Manager Rachel Beck, Design Manager Paul Randall-Grutter, Construction Manager David Walde, and Accounting Tech Jim Martin.

Beck presented the 2011 Ferry Operations Work Plan, with Hash and Wesen making it clear they also wanted to hear any other concerns related to ferry operations. Copies of the work plan will be available at www.skagitcounty.net/ferry, as soon as edits are made from comments received at the forum.

Levels of service standards

As Beck explained, “levels of service” (LOS) is an engineering term completely distinct from customer service, although the two go hand in hand once LOS standards are set. According to the written handout, it is “a series of [data-driven] performance measures” that take many factors into consideration, including seasonal and time-of-day or week usage, management and ridership needs, costs, etc. The goal is to have these standards written by fall. To this end Public Works (PW) will be meeting with the Ferry Committee (FC) in mid-May; islanders are urged to present their input no later than May 1.

Ferry schedule

Beck and Hash said they are working on a plan to avoid cars being left behind after the last run on summer Sundays and to clear up other times of worst congestion. This may include adding runs and/or establishing different seasonal schedules. They hope to have a plan in place by June, although islander Jodi Meekins pointed out that Memorial Day is really when the peak season begins.

The ongoing issue of reinstating the Friday and Saturday midnight runs and the 10:00 p.m. run on Sunday was broached by Carol Pellett and FC member Steve Orsini. This led to a discussion of the weeknight runs after 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. “When these runs were instituted islanders were told that this would give us an increase in service with no increase in cost, so of course people are going to say ‘yes,’” Orsini said.

He continued, “but this is not what happened,” so the end result was that our latest weekend runs were discontinued.

Orsini proposed sending out an island-wide survey to determine if most residents favored giving up these later weekday runs in order to reinstate the late-night weekend runs.

Hash pointed out that a survey would cost money, to which Orsini suggested that a cost/benefit analysis be done.

Several people spoke on behalf of the survey, noting the importance of its wording and possibly having an unbiased professional write it.

In response to Hash’s statement that we should send input on these issues to Beck, Emma Schroder said that being “forced into these later weeknight runs” created a general mistrust of the county among islanders. Hash replied that PW sincerely wants to work with islanders so “we can get there.” Meekins added that it would help if we got feedback when we do send in ideas, and urged the panel to “count” all the input they were receiving that evening.

Beck stated that the county doesn’t get a lot of comments from islanders. Wesen responded by urging people to feel free to call him (336-9300). Hash said he knows that Wesen reads everything we send, and Beck said she saves every comment she receives.

(continued on page 14)
Ceramics Classes with Sue Roberts

Sue Roberts is offering ceramic classes and workshops for children and adults at her studio on Guemes.

A two-day workshop, “Storytelling with the Figure,” will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 16–17, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Beginning and advanced students will learn to build small figures and use them to tell a story, with an emphasis on humor. She will also demonstrate surface design and finishing and painting techniques. The cost is $225 and includes most materials.

The next six-week course begins the week of April 18. For more information, see www.towerartsstudio.com or call 293-8878.

Bike Movies Kick Off Biking Season

On Sunday, April 17, Anderson’s General Store will show a feature-length bicycle movie and several short bicycle films to help inspire people to get back on their bikes during warmer weather. The movies will begin around 1:30 p.m. on the big-screen TV at the counter.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Online

In addition to help from Guemes Connects in coordinating rides during the ferry outage (see the March Tide), LineTime (www.linetime.org) now has a Connections section of the message board called Neighbors Helping Neighbors, where people can post messages asking for or offering assistance (rides, errand-running, and the like).

Also on LineTime are schedules for the ferry, shuttle service, and Waste Management, along with complete details of the free taxi service being provided from the Cap Sante dock to Island Hospital and hospital-operated clinics and outpatient services. Call Mert’s Taxi a day ahead of your appointment at 299-0609.

Free Grocery Delivery During Outage

Anderson’s General Store is providing free delivery service twice a day during the ferry outage. Call 293-4548 with your order—before 11:00 a.m. for an 11:30 a.m. delivery run or before 6:00 p.m. for a 6:30 p.m. delivery, seven days a week. You can pay by credit card over the phone or by cash or check at your home.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 23, at 3:00 p.m., there will be an egg-dyeing party at the Hall, in preparation for the annual Easter egg hunt for kids in Schoolhouse Park on Easter Sunday, April 24, at 11:00 a.m. Donations of eggs (please mark if they’re hard-boiled) will be accepted Friday and Saturday at the Hall.

Call Stella Spring at 588-1588 for details. Or ask the Easter bunny.

Veterinary Service During Outage

Thanks to some of our island neighbors, Mount Vernon Veterinary Hospital can respond to large-animal emergencies on Guemes during the car-ferry outage.

These folks, who prefer to remain anonymous, are keeping one of the hospital’s stocked trucks at their home and will provide transportation for the vet from ferry to truck until normal ferry service resumes. You can call the hospital at 424-4054. Regular hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but any after-hours emergency will be fielded through the answering service, and the on-call veterinarian will return your call within 15 minutes.

Palm Sunday Parade

On Sunday, April 17, the Guemes Island Community Church will have a parade, led by two live donkeys. Everyone is welcome to gather at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Center and walk down to the yard behind the Church. The parade will last approximately 20 minutes, and environmentally friendly palms will be provided.
**Free Play for Kids**

Emily Bush and Iona McLean, both two and a half years old, get very excited on Mondays because they get to play with each other at the Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Parents and/or grandparents accompany their preschoolers and, with Kathy Finks, have a variety of activities available for playtime, including toys, games, and stories. Emily’s mom, Kelly Bush, appreciates the opportunity close by for Emily to learn social skills as well as to get to run, jump, and play in a big space during the winter months.

Burning off energy is also a big part of the after-school activities for grade schoolers who gather at the Community Center/Library on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 6:00 p.m. In addition to active indoor or outdoor games, the computer is available in the Library. Healthy snacks are provided and sometimes there is a story reader. Activities are child-directed and supervised by several parents. All ages are welcome, but the focus is for elementary-school-age children.

For information about preschool playtime, call Kathy Finks, 588-9192; for after-school activities, call Tom Butler, 632-0002.

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**Gathering Lunches Extended**

By popular request, the Gathering lunches served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Church on Thursdays will continue through April 21. Everyone is welcome to attend. Suggested donation for the meal is $4.00.

April 7: Lorraine Francis will serve sweet and sour chicken, rice, tropical fruit salad, and cake.

April 14: Juby Fouts and Julie deRouche will serve lasagna, salad, bread, and cheesecake.

April 21: Lorraine Francis will serve pulled pork on a bun, coleslaw, beans, chips, and a brownie sundae.

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**Knitters Finish Class**

Erica Rich, Terre Scappiini, Bea Cashetta, Diane Murray, and Bonnie Flory completed a two-session knitting class March 6, taught by Morna McEachern. All but Flory were beginning knitters (Cashetta was renewing forgotten skills) and finished their first project—a hat. Letty Lara attended the first session along with eight-year-old Shaw Clifton, who is proudly working on completing his hat.

“Master” knitter Flory attended for fun. “Old knitters never die,” she quipped, “they just ravel away.”

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**Dinner-Plate Art**

From April 1 through May, Elise Harper will exhibit her dinner-plate art in the loft at the Store. Harper attended Evergreen State College, where she focused on visual arts. She takes blank ceramic dinner plates, applies her whimsical designs and glazes to them, and fires them in a kiln.

Her work has also been displayed in a group show in Olympia.

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**New Scheduler for Events**

Margie O’Harra is the new scheduler for events at the Community Center. She plans to post the events calendar on www.linetime.org. You can reach her at 770-3271 or mlloharra@hotmail.com.

Sandy Warmouth is the person to call to schedule events at the Pavilion in Schoolhouse Park. You can reach her at 293-3718.

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**Soup Supper Schedule**

April 5: Jon Prescott, Howard Pellett, and Martha Kline discuss religion and atheism on Guemes Island.

April 12: Poet and songwriter Densley Palmer presents his writing and songs.

April 19: Kelly Parsons speaks about migrant education.

April 26: To be announced (see www.guemeschurch.com or www.linetime.org)

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**Jaws of Life Campaign**

As of March 15, the Guemes Island Fire Department had raised $4,015 of the $25,000 needed to buy a set of hydraulic extrication tools, known as the Jaws of Life, to rescue people from crushed cars or buildings. Modern cars are made from metal alloys that are impossible to cut through with hand tools.

Watch the fundraising thermometer outside the Store for progress and send donations to the Guemes Island Fire Department, 6310 Guemes Island Road, Anacortes, WA 98221. Indicate on your check or cover letter that the donation is for the Jaws of Life.
South Shore Road Work Progresses

Skagit County Public Works began work March 7 near Cayou Creek to prepare the shoulder of the north lane for paving. They finished the job on the 23rd. Using the shoulder is a temporary fix for the area where the road has collapsed, until the entire road in that area can be moved north sometime later this year or next.

Also on March 23, drainage was rerouted at South Beach and Chestnut lanes to prevent further erosion of the south bluff adjoining South Shore Road.

Feld Trial Slated for April 11

Charles Feld appeared before Skagit County Superior Court Judge Dave Needy on March 3 with a notably different demeanor from his court appearance the preceding week, when he asked to plead guilty to all charges.

Complaining that he had not been allowed to represent himself and calling defense attorney Wes Richards a liar, Feld requested that Needy dismiss Richards and grant Feld a change of venue. “I cannot get a fair trial in this county,” Feld announced.

Needy explained that if it was determined that a jury could not be seated because of knowledge of the alleged events, Feld would have the right to a jury from out of county. “I have no rights, you honor,” Feld stated. “We have had no rights since 1931 when globalists like you, whores like you, have been in this nation. Kill yourselves.” Feld then left the courtroom.

The status hearing was continued until March 10. Appearing then before Skagit County Superior Court Judge John M. Meyer, attorney Richards advised the court that jail personnel had reported to him that Feld was no longer taking the psychiatric drugs that had been prescribed for him.

When asked to comment about his request to represent himself, Feld refused to speak. Meyer asked repeatedly if Feld had anything to say. After about a minute of silence, Meyer denied the motion for new counsel.

Richards stated that he was not prepared to go to trial because he had not yet reviewed statements from all 25 witnesses scheduled to testify. At that point Feld retorted to the judge, “He’s had a year to prepare. He refuses to prepare. He’s lied to you . . . and I refuse to even recognize your authority because you allow these whores to perjure themselves. . . .” Then, asking Meyer to sanction the defense and prosecuting attorneys, Feld left the courtroom.

At a hearing March 24 to arraign Feld with additional felonies, the trial date was continued until April 11, which will be just over a year from the events on the island that led to charges of attempted homicide, arson, and assault for Feld.

Church Has New Website

The new website for the Guemes Island Community Church, www.guemeschurch.com, includes videos of sermons, creative works, information about the current Lenten Carbon Fast, a prayer list, and a calendar of regularly scheduled events.

A new feature posts book reviews, news articles, and opinion pieces on varying subjects—all open for viewer comments and postings. To participate, send your first and last name, a login name, password, and valid e-mail address to webmaster Charlie Jackson at cvj_ky@hotmail.com. Mention Church Blog in the subject line.

Therapy Dogs Help Heal

Wendy Dahlstrom and Deb Hall gave a short introduction to the Dogs on Call (DOC) program to attendees of Debbie Exley’s dog training class on March 19. DOC is an all-volunteer organization that helps train, test, and certify dog owners for canine-assisted activities and therapies in such places as schools, hospitals, and elder-care facilities in Skagit County. The dogs remain with their owners, unlike service dogs who are trained for permanent placement with clients. Dogs must be certified by a nationally recognized therapy-dog organization.

Dahlstrom explained that any breed of dog can work as a therapy dog; success is more related to temperament. Calm, obedient, loving therapy dogs work as furry friends for elementary-school students who are having emotional or behavioral challenges. They visit friends in nursing homes with dementia. They provide healing assistance in hospitals and in many other settings.

For more information, see www .wix.com/dogsoncall/dogsoncall or contact dogsoncall@gmail.com.
Fire Department Prepares to Transport Patients

Guemes Island Fire Department volunteers, Anacortes Fire Department paramedics, the Mystic Sea crew, and ferry personnel reviewed plans for transporting patients March 23–25 in preparation for the ferry outage. They walked through the process of getting a gurney onto the Mystic Sea and securing it, and also practiced “man over-board” procedures.

“I think the process is going to work really well, and it looks like the setup is going to be really safe,” Chief Medical Officer Nancy White observed following the trial runs.

During the outage, EMTs will be alert to the possibility that patients may need to be airlifted due to increased transport times. Plans are in place to increase communication between first responders and the paramedic/emergency-room members of the medical response team.

In bad weather, the option of calling in a helicopter from the Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island has been explored. Chief Mike Stamper commented, “Every effort has been made to make sure there is redundancy in the system and that transports will go smoothly.”

GIFD’s Jim Dugan, Nancy White, and Gerry Francis and Anacortes Fire Department’s Jack Kennedy (second from right) secure a gurney aboard the Mystic Sea.

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February 22, 2011, was a momentous date in the island country of New Zealand, as the earth created some higher mountains and shook down the town of Christchurch—again.

We were among the Guemes Islanders visiting these islands at that moment. Driving south from Kaikoura, a town on the northeast coast of South Island, we stopped to gas up our tourist-van “BedMobil” in the little town of Cheviot, less than an hour north of Christchurch. (Cheviot sheep are one of the 19 breeds of white “woolies” that New Zealand is known for, with 40 million of them grazing the nation’s slopes.)

At the gas station we were approached by a truck driver going north, who recognized us as tourists. He asked Bob, “Where are you going?” Bob’s response: “South to Christchurch.” Truck driver’s response: “No, you’re not. There’s been an earthquake in Christchurch—I heard it on my radio and all travelers are warned to bypass the area.”

Thanking him profusely, we studied the map to determine how to bypass Christchurch on the very few roads heading south. We received much advice and pursued our journey, listening to the radio—all stations were broadcasting only the earthquake news.

We soon learned that in a country of only four million people, everyone had a relative, friend, or friend or relative of a friend or relative living in Christchurch. The tales were flowing from everyone we encountered. The night of the 22nd, we camped at a park in Rangiora with a couple of vacationing German students who had been in a three-story building in Christchurch when it collapsed. They were in the kitchen and escaped as the bottom floor was pancaking. That night, we slept snugly through the aftershocks in our BedMobil.

Because the quake had rattled nearby towns also, everywhere we went stores had products shaken off the shelves and windows broken. Service was limited or nonexistent and periodic blackouts were mandated. In Rangiora, “La Tandoor” East Indian restaurant was the only one open. It was dark, with the TV the only source of light. The owner’s cell phone rang constantly with relatives and friends and also with customers looking for food. While we were eating, a couple came in for takeout. The woman had been in an office building and was pushed out by her boss. Her hands were still shaking. Her home had just been repaired from the September quake and this time she didn’t return home.

The catastrophe for the island communities reminded me that, back on Guemes, I had left CERT responsibilities to Gail Nicolls so that I could go on vacation. And I knew that our small community would be covered for similar catastrophes by community volunteers and neighbors, just as the Christchurch community—nationwide—was caring for its own survivors, families, and infrastructure.

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**Mount Vernon Veterinary Hospital**

Providing large animal emergency services only from March 28th through May 22nd  
For 24-hour emergency response call 360-424-4054  
www.mountvernontshospital.com
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<td>Apr. 1, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
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<td>April Fees' Day</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Island Sanga Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
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<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
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<td>4:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
<td>Jenny Snorkol 355-0000</td>
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<td>George Wilson Fiddle Concert</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
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<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 3, Sun.</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Island Sanga Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Council Meeting</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Martha Kline 988-6234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Service</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Martha Kline 988-6234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 4, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGuinness 293-7973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 5, Tues.</td>
<td>Brown Bag Book Club</td>
<td>1:30pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Bonnie Flor's</td>
<td>Marlene Kooiman 293-3815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soup Support: <em>Religion &amp; Atheism</em></td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Martha Kline 988-6234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 6, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarella 293-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>6:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sue Gwost 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 7, Thu.</td>
<td>Gathering Lunch: Sweet &amp; Sour Chicken</td>
<td>11:15am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Lorraine Prands 293-8264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 8, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Island Sanga Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 9, Sat.</td>
<td>GIFOA Meeting</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Bob Groedelkoll 425-770-3638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library Open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Live Music: Barnstorm Jack</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Charlotte Clifton 293-4248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 10, Sun.</td>
<td>Spiritual Practices Class</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>David Stabough 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Island Sanga Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Service</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Martha Kline 988-6234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 11, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Society Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Winn Anderson 293-1539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGuinness 293-7973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library Book Club</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 12, Tues.</td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soup Support: Poe/Songwriter</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Martha Kline 988-6234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fire Commissioner's Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Fire Hall</td>
<td>Mike Stamper 233-1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 13, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Passarella 293-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>6:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sue Gwost 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 14, Thu.</td>
<td>Gathering Lunch: Lasagna</td>
<td>11:15am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Lorraine Prands 293-8264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men's Book Club</td>
<td>7:00pm - 9:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>George Moskios 293-3291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 15, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Island Sanga Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 16, Sat.</td>
<td>Ceramics Workshopº</td>
<td>9:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Sue Roberts Studio</td>
<td>See Roberts 293-8878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pallett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 17, Sun.</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Island Sanga Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Prescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spiritual Practices Class</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>David Stabough 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cont'd)</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Parade</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Martha Kline 988-6234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All events listed are open to the public (some require pre-registration). Asterisk (*) indicates fee for event.
## The Guemes Tide Community Calendar
### April 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 17, Sun. (cont'd from previous page)</td>
<td>Church Service</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Jelle Pingree 293-2269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceramics Workshop*</td>
<td>9:30am - 12:30pm</td>
<td>Sue Roberts Studio</td>
<td>Sue Roberts 293-8878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Bike Flicks&quot; (movies TBA)</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sophie Dobra 588-9090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td></td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Charlotte Clifton 293-4548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 18, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Swim</td>
<td>Preschool Free Play/Storytime Activities</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Library</td>
<td>Kathy Finks 588-9192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Barbara McGinnies 293-7773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19, Tues.</td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pescaover</td>
<td>Soup Supper: Migrant Education</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Martha Kline 588-6214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knitting Night</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Carof's</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 20, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men's Breakfast</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Jeff Genc 293-6436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Paservall 293-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>6:30pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sue Gwoest 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 21, Thu.</td>
<td>Hall Walkers</td>
<td>10:30am - 11:30am</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sandy Wanmous 293-7578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gathering Lunch: Pulled Pork</td>
<td>11:30am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Lorraine Francis 293-8364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GICCA Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Leslie Techling 293-2516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 22, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Pescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 23, Sat.</td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Egg Dying</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Stella Springer 588-1088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 24, Sun.</td>
<td>Spiritual Practices Class</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>David Stabeaux 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Day</td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Pescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Service</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Martha Kline 588-6214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Schoolhouse Park</td>
<td>Stella Springer 588-1088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 25, Mon.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preschool Free Play/Storytime Activities</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Hall &amp; Library</td>
<td>Kathy Finks 588-9192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>6:30pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sue Gwoest 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 26, Tues.</td>
<td>After-School Library Day/Storytime</td>
<td>4:15pm - 6:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tom Butler 632-0802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soup Supper: TBA</td>
<td>6:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Martha Kline 588-6214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 27, Wed.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cemetery Meeting</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>Dixon Elder 293-8923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women's Fellowship/Quilting</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Anne Paservall 293-2549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2pm-4pm/6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>6:30pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sue Gwoest 293-5708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 28, Thu.</td>
<td>Hall Walkers</td>
<td>10:30am - 11:30am</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Sandy Wanmous 293-7578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 29, Fri.</td>
<td>Strength-Building Group</td>
<td>7:30am - 8:15am</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Dyvon Havens 293-0221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Island Sangha Zendo</td>
<td>Jon Pescott 929-6996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 30, Sat.</td>
<td>Plant Sale</td>
<td>10:00am - 3:00pm</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Sally 293-9474 or Joan 293-4498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library open</td>
<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Carol Pollett 293-8128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ONGOING**

Car ferry will be out of service for dock repair until approximately May 22.

Anderson's Store is offering free delivery service (two runs per day - call by 11:00am or 6:00pm) during the ferry outage.

Apr. 1 through May: Ellie Harper's "Diener Platz Art" will be on display at Anderson's Store.

Mar. 28 - Apr. 15: Solar Energy International holds workshops at the Hall. Contact Ian Wootenden at 770-1530.

To add your event, contact Sophie at 588-9090 or sophiedobra@green.com (by the 15th of the month).
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO LIVE ON GUEMES?

**Featured Home**

5027 West Shore

This quality custom home perfectly captures the 180° panoramic western views of the San Juan’s, Bellingham Channel & Olympic Mts. Great room w/ash hardwood floors, gas fireplace, vaulted ceiling & wall of windows. Gourmet kitchen w/ island & pantry, dining room with deck access & 2 Master Suites on main level. Oak panel elevator, large office upstairs, 2 hobby rooms, shop & 3 car/RV garage. Large level fenced garden area & garden shed. Beach Rights w/mooring buoy & access across the street.

$650,000  MLS# 181011

**Vacant Land**

- Holiday Blvd  $63,000  MLS# 114174
- 7374 Holiday Blvd  $69,000  MLS# 82717
- 7810 Hideaway Lane  $198,000  MLS# 29156267
- Lot 80 Holiday Blvd  $229,000  MLS# 192906
- Island View Drive  $450,000  MLS# 73849

**What you get when you list your property with Margi:**

- **Full-Time Professional Real Estate Agent with 11 Years Experience**
- **Top Producer on Guemes Island & Anacortes**
- **Professional Photos of Your Property**
- **High Quality Marketing Materials**
- **Top Search Engine Placement**
- **Professional Websites**
- **Continuous Market Updates**
- **Available to Clients 24/7**
- **29 Year Resident of the Area**

Margi **SOLD** 27 properties last year. Even in a slow market she is productive.

“Through Margi’s professional marketing she helped me get my house sold quickly and she also helped me find my new home in Anacortes. Both transactions went smoothly and I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend her to my friends.”

Don Patrick 2011

To view more listings go to [GuemesIsland.com](http://GuemesIsland.com)

**Margi Houghton**

(360) 202-0041

margi@windermere.com

[www.guemesisland.com](http://www.guemesisland.com)
FERRY PUBLIC FORUM
(continued from page 5)

Ferry ticketing
Beck reported that the Board of County Commissioners accepted the new rate proposal. If approved by the Washington State Department of Transportation, it will be implemented June 1 (see story on page 4).

She also stated that although the FC’s position has been that passes should be nontransferable in order to generate more revenue, the county’s position is still that one pays for a pass one can share it. However, riders cannot expect the crew to give a pass to someone else later in the day.

Larry Pyke raised the issue of “the inefficient method of ticket sales.” Beck explained that her research into ticket machines revealed not only a high initial cost, but also substantial ongoing expenses in terms of software and transaction fees.

Other ideas under consideration include online purchase of punch cards or magnetic cards that could be “refilled” and using the county’s infrastructure to sell cards online, by mail, or over the phone. FC Chairman Glen Veal said that funding might be available to set up a partnership with Skagit Transit, possibly even using the same card for bus and ferry as they do in Pierce and King counties, where the bus comes directly to the ferry terminal (see Veal’s article below).

Unfortunately, the one-and-a-half hour meeting did not allow time for the last two agenda items: Fare Recovery Methodology and Projects Update.

Last minute outage details
In response to past questions, Beck explained that while the Mystic Sea boarding ramp is not ADA approved due to the spacing of the pilings, it is wheelchair-accessible and the crew is willing to “give someone a ride from the parking lot at the top of the ramp to onboard the boat.” After conducting an experiment with a friend, Bob Cummings reported that getting up the long ramp with a walker is doable but takes a long time.

The ferry manager also offered some reminders: wheelbarrows are difficult to maneuver, so use carts whenever possible; motorcycles are on a space-available basis; and those with dogs, carts, bicycles, etc. should go toward the stern and move all the way back as quickly as possible to minimize boarding time. This area is enclosed and heated, with tables and seating.

Beck reiterated that the run between Guemes and Cap Sante takes longer, as will boarding and disembarking, so allow plenty of time to reach your destination. (A tip from islanders is that since the Mystic Sea is more susceptible to cancellations due to weather, it’s wise to keep blankets and pillows in your car and be prepared for unexpected overnight stays.)

As the meeting closed, PW Director Hash said that organizing and implementing this outage was incredibly complicated, and he was very impressed by the way Ferry Manager Beck has handled it. His comment was met with applause.

Several days later, Beck told the Tide that in response to comments received at the forum and by e-mail, she made arrangements to move the handicapped parking from the gravel lot to the paved area of A Dock. There are now six, instead of two, handicapped spaces next to the loading area. She added that she’s been very pleased with the cooperation between the Port of Anacortes and Skagit County so far in this process.

Skagit Transit Ferry Access Is in Question

By Glen Veal

Editor’s note: Veal is Chairman of the Ferry Committee (FC).

At the Ferry Forum meeting on March 24, time did not allow for discussion of the Anacortes dock plan that was displayed at the front of the room. After the meeting, FC members asked about the plan regarding access to the terminal building by Skagit Transit buses. We were told by Dave Walde, Public Works (PW) engineer, that the buses would not be able to come down the hill to the terminal.

This was unexpected, since in numerous discussions with Tom Ballard, recent interim Public Works director, and Ron Pancer, past ferry manager, the FC was assured that the new dock plan would provide for bus access. The FC intends to determine why this changed and how PW might be able to restructure the plan to create the necessary space.

The FC has always believed that there needs to be better coordination between the ferry and the bus, and a primary component is the ability of buses to pick up and deliver passengers at the terminal building. It’s very inconvenient to take the bus if one must walk up or down the steep hill to 6th Street—especially carrying shopping bags—nor do we believe that this arrangement meets ADA standards. Further, we think that easy access to the bus could help alleviate future parking problems.

If other islanders agree, now is the time to contact Public Works (336-9400; hhash@co.skagit.wa.us) and let Director Henry Hash know before work on the Anacortes dock begins. We also recommend contacting Commissioner Ron Wesen and the rest of the board by phone (336-9300) or in writing at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, with a copy of written comments and e-mails to Rachel Beck (rachaelb@co.skagit.wa.us; 333-1496).
Woven Together: Generations on a Loom

By Karen Everett

Many Guemes families go back generations, and in my 25 years here I’ve observed some sweet passing-down of knowledge from one to the next. Last Christmas Day, I spotted such a handoff in progress, as islanders Barbara McGuinness and Nancy White chatted with the Stapp family about moving the beautiful loom that has been in the Stapps’ home for longer than I’ve been an Everett.

Mary Stapp, who turns 90 this month, started beading and weaving in her youth. When she married Charles Stapp Jr. (Stappy) in ’46 and moved to the Northwest, she became keenly interested in Indian arts and baskets. Sometime during the ’60s she read an article about the Salish Indians weaving on a very simple loom. “Stappy agreed to copy it and build me a loom,” she recalls. “After that I joined a group of people on Magnolia Hill in Seattle learning how to weave on a hand-operated table.”

In 1981 her mother visited and encouraged Mary to buy a larger loom so she could create rugs for their new house on Guemes. “I chose a Cranbrook Countermarche loom, made in Michigan,” she recalls. It was 60 inches wide and came in five boxes. Stappy put it all together, and also made “a lovely bench seat that allowed you to throw the shuttle the full 60-inch width!”

Weaving was an enduring joy for Mary, and the Stapps even remodeled their house for better light and shelving to accommodate all the yarns. The rugs “brought color to the house and we had fun finding old slacks or jackets that are now part of the rugs.”

As time passed, Mary found herself weaving less and also spending more time in Seattle. She decided to sell the loom, but needed to find just the right weavers to cherish that loom.

She found them in her own backyard, says Mary: “Two lovely young women, keenly interested—and it would stay on Guemes!”

Nancy White is a “paraeducator” at Mount Erie Elementary and chief medical officer of the Guemes Island Fire Department, and Barbara McGuinness was our bus driver for nearly 20 years. The two friends started their foray into weaving while teaching island kids to knit around Barbara’s kitchen table.

“We decided we wanted to learn to spin our own yarn,” says White. “There was an old wheel in Barbara’s attic, and they started teaching themselves to spin.

The two women note their “very good fortune” to have taken a class with well-known textile teacher Judith MacKenzie, which put them on a new path of holding spinning retreats. One of the retreats was held here on Guemes at Casselton Lodge.

Their love of fiber brought the two together with Mary, and thus began the dream of someday buying her Cranbrook. They are overjoyed to have the opportunity to share in this special bit of Guemes history and to be able to weave on this beautiful loom.

“We’re hoping that Mary will be able to give us some guidance this summer while she is on the island,” says Nancy. “After all, it is Mary’s loom.”

Mary Stapp Turns 90

By Sally Stapp Brigham

Mary Stapp came to Guemes from Memphis in 1946 as the bride of Charles Stapp Jr. ("Stappy") and became the third Mary in the Stapp family. After raising four children (Sue, Sal, Tom, and Jen) in Seattle, the couple lived on North Beach from 1973 to 1999.

Although Mary now lives with Jen in Seattle, she spends time on Guemes during summers. She enjoys picking fruit and combing the woods for blackberries, huckleberries, and mushrooms. Mary cleans and cooks all species of seafood and still entertains waves of family and friends. She has probably made a million pies.

Fiber arts—sewing, knitting, spinning, weaving, and quilting—occupy much of her time (see story above). But her favorite activity is gardening, as soon as the weather allows. Her Guemes garden still delights passersby. Next-door neighbor Billy Everett asks Mary not to garden after 5:00 p.m. as it “compromises the spirit of the cocktail hour.”

We will celebrate her 90th birthday April 20, and toast her healthy, active life. Mom—you can have the day off. We’ll do the dishes.

Birthdays

(Recognition for those 18 and under and the chronologically gifted)

Jim O’Neil turns 82 on April 1.
Elaine Boyd turns 73 on April 6.
Jack E. Smith turns 80 on April 10.
Joan Nelson turns 79 on April 12.
Jim Kager turns 86 on April 17.
Anna Tysseling Prewitt turns 9 and Mary Stapp turns 90 on April 20.
Samantha Marie Spahr turns 4 on April 21.
Jacqueline Anderson turns 16 on April 22.
Kessandra Danielson turns 14 on April 28.
Wallie Funk turns 89 on April 29.
Hannah Ranelle Reinholt turns 14 on April 30.
PEACE CORPS VETERANS  
(continued from page 1)  
about the value of her experience.

Also in 1962, Fred Sievers went to Sierra Leone. He lived in the “bush,” by choice, to experience native life during the week as he built roads. He recalled living each week on a case of peaches, pears, Boston brown bread, and Boston baked beans that he brought from the town where he stayed on the weekends. He found the local food too spicy for his taste.

“I learned to know what I’ve got here,” he said in appreciation of the wide array of choices Americans enjoy. Sue Sievers, who knew of Fred but hadn’t really met him, volunteered in 1963, inspired by a campaign visit from John F. Kennedy to her campus and wanting to travel and perfect her Spanish. “I was unsure of what to do with myself. I thought it would be exciting,” she remembers. She was in the first group of women assigned to Colombia, where she helped women and children with basic health and nutrition issues. Stationed in a larger town of about 25,000, she also did rural outreach, traveling with mules and carrying generators. She values the person-to-person contact she shared: “I gained sensitivity to other cultures. My ideas about nationalism changed. And,” he added, “I learned to appreciate cold milk—that’s what I missed the most.”

John and Julie Hopkins met in their Peace Corps training group in 1964 and were posted at opposite ends of Lake Titicaca in Peru. John had been interested in South America, had some agricultural experience, and had majored in international studies. In a small rural village at 12,500 feet, he helped breed cattle and sheep. Brown Swiss cattle were especially suited to life at that altitude and breeding those bulls with the indigenous breeds improved the stock.

He enjoyed his stay, and his experience helped with his career as he went on to get a master’s degree in agricultural economics and then work in the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

Julie had previously been to Peru and wanted to return. In her rural village, she taught athletics in girls’ schools and helped with sewing projects, using treadle machines.

“It took a lot of time to live—hauling water and washing clothes in the creek,” she recalled. In addition to meeting her husband (they married as soon as they returned), she loved living with such kind people in such rich cultural traditions.

Jan and Terry Ebersole met in 1965 during Peace Corps training and were both stationed in central India. They became best friends in India but did not become a couple until two years after they returned.

Advised by an employment counselor to apply, Jan, freshly graduated from art school, made it through the rigorous testing and security clearances. She landed in a small village of houses with cow-dung floors, unscreened windows, no running water or refrigeration (but one light bulb), and poisonous snakes on the way to the latrine. She ran a UNICEF milk program, feeding warm milk to children every morning, and helped with smallpox vaccinations and family planning projects. In addition to making a small contribution to that part of the world, her adventure with diverse people “made me a citizen of the world. There was nothing I didn’t think I could do.”

Terry yearned for a more worldly experience than his upbringing in an Iowa town of 500, surrounded by corn and soybeans—and he had no plans after college graduation. Assigned to a small village with no electricity, he helped introduce poultry production in a grain-based agriculture—a project promoted by the Indian government. He was issued a bicycle, cot, table, chair, mosquito net, shortwave radio, and a book...
locker filled with classical and contemporary literature. “Who would have thought reading Thomas Hardy was entertainment?” he joked. Terry values his discovery of the “delights, mysteries, and horrors” of India and the enlightening exposure to people with backgrounds unlike his. “I got much more from India than India got from me.”

In 1969, Bill Budd was trying to avoid the draft and got a deferment for the Peace Corps. Assigned to Malaysia to help with rural health, he built latrines, dug wells for clean water, and assisted the medical health officer in projects to control tuberculosis, typhoid, and hookworm. In addition to learning about other cultures, “I learned that they had a health system and we didn’t,” he realized. That revelation influenced his career choice to help set up low-income health clinics in Seattle.

Teaching them to fish
Ginger and Steve Orsini, who had been dating for several years, both wanted to join the Peace Corps when they graduated from college. Ginger wanted to do something helpful and Steve, whose brother had enjoyed his Peace Corps experience, wanted to serve his country without joining the military. In 1970, though they were hoping to get a joint assignment, Ginger was sent to Micronesia and Steve to Puerto Rico for training. So they got married.

They were posted to a small village in coastal Honduras, inhabited primarily by descendants of runaway African slaves. They lived in extreme, buggy heat (“Every bug that could ate me,” Ginger recalls) without electricity or running water. Ginger taught ESL to adults, which increased their employment chances at nearby United Fruit Company. Steve taught various commercial fishing techniques to the villagers, using motorized dugouts. He helped introduce fish as a protein source to nearby Latino communities, where malnutrition was rampant and the death rate at birth was 50 percent. The local practice was to eat only reconstituted salted fish once a year during Holy Week.

In addition to the unforgettable experience of getting to know the local people, they learned “how amazingly arduous living in the tropics is and how difficult it is for people to live in a third-world country.”

Pat Chambers thought joining the Peace Corps “seemed like a good thing to do” in 1971. In Thailand, where he taught ESL, his experience reordered his priorities. “I went in a graphic artist and came out an educator. I made a difference in a couple of people’s lives and a few people made a difference in mine.”

Charlotte Clifton grew up intrigued by her godmother’s stories of serving in the Peace Corps in 1961 with the first group to the Philippines. In 1991, she volunteered and went to Niger, nicknamed the “frying pan of Africa” and ranked in the bottom ten countries in the world to live. At that time, one in five children died before age five. She worked in a maternity clinic, giving basic health lessons and went to neighboring villages with a nurse to help give vaccinations. “I learned that you can be pretty much anywhere in the world and have something in common with people, if you just take time to talk to them, regardless of backgrounds or religions,” she recalled. “And it helps if you can laugh a lot.”

Interest from a new generation
High-school senior Mirissa Bosch also attended the event because she wants to travel and is thinking about joining the corps after college. She enjoyed hearing about different, eye-opening experiences the returned volunteers shared. “If anything, I became even more curious about going,” she stated.

Given her enthusiasm, the Peace Corps’ future seems destined to continue changing lives, both here and abroad. For more information about the Peace Corps, see www.peacecorps.gov.

“Development contributes to stability, it contributes to better governments. And if you are able to do those things, and you are able to do them in a focused and sustainable way, then it may be unnecessary for us to send soldiers.”

— Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, September 28, 2010

This quotation and budget comparison, supplied by the Peace Corps, illustrate the huge disparity between Peace Corps spending and defense spending.
Guemes School: The Early Years

By Win Anderson

The Guemes Island Historical Society, in cooperation with the Anacortes History Museum, has been attempting to fill in some of the gaps in the story of the school that was such an important part of the island’s educational and social life. Here is a summary of what their research has revealed so far of the very earliest times. Unfortunately, no photos have yet been uncovered of the first buildings.

The Guemes School served the island for nearly 90 years, in three different buildings in two locations. The schools also provided meeting space for community events plus church and/or Sunday-school gatherings for the first 40 years of the island’s pioneer days.

In her book This Isle of Guemes, Helen Elmore wrote that the first school was located on the south bluff east of the ferry landing. There were eight or ten children in 1873 when the community decided to build a log cabin for the purpose. Mrs. Laura Murrow, daughter of pioneer Humphrey Posey O’Bryant, was the first teacher when school started in 1875.

Nine years later the Northwest Enterprise reported, “The Sunday School on Guemes Island closed on the 16th of November. It was organized on the 8th of last June under the Superintendence of John L. Matthews, Mrs. A. Sibley, secretary and Mrs. T.B. Sibley, treasurer. The school was held in the public school house located on the bank of the Guemes Channel and full attendance was held up during the summer.”

The next published reference to a school on Guemes appeared in the October 10, 1885, issue of the Enterprise: “The new schoolhouse on Guemes Island is about completed. They will christen it with a dance on Friday evening. All are invited.”

This would have been the building erected on an acre of land donated by William Edens at the crossroads, described by Claribel Rathbone Dahlen, in her daughter’s book, Skagit Schoolma’am. Miss Rathbone was 19 when she came to Guemes in 1897 after spending the previous year teaching on Cypress.

Her account provides a rare firsthand look at the educational conditions of the day:

“The (Guemes) school was in the center of the island just as on Cypress. The schoolhouse was made of hand-hewn cedar logs. The cracks were chinked with mortar. Sometimes the chinks fell out. So the mortar didn’t always keep out all the wind but at least it diverted its general direction.

“It was an amazingly fine schoolhouse when you stop and think that all these first schools were built by subscription. A man could give labor, timber or money. He received credit for his donation: $2.50 for a day’s work.

“The roof was made of hand split shakes four feet across. Some places you could see the blue sky through the cracks and where (the shakes) wouldn’t lay flat. But they kept the rain out in spite of aeration.”

Mrs. Rathbone Dahlen described the “big wood stove” in the center of the room for which the big boys vied for the job of chopping wood. The desks seated two, and a seat in front was reserved for recitations. Water was dipped by bucket from a dug well and served from a common dipper kept on a bench.

“The curriculum included “the three R’s, spelling, memorizing of table, declamation, orthography, defining, penmanship, grammar, geography and history of the United States.” School was opened each morning with a song and “the School Board was not averse to a prayer.”

To close out her year, Miss Rathbone arranged for a program including:

A speech by Mr. Blackinton on “The Evils of Liquor”
A song, “My Old Kentucky Home,” by the Graduates
The presentation of diplomas
Declaration: “I’ll Never Use Tobacco”
Presentation of Certificates of Merit
Dialogue: A Place for Everything
Piano solo: Mendelsohn’s Spring Song

The event ended with Miss Rathbone in tears as young Chester Blackinton presented an original poem of praise in three stanzas titled “The Clear Bell: An Ode to Miss Claribel Rathbone, Our Dear Teacher.”

Students in that class included Molly and Bertha Edens; Nina and Pearl Sutton; Lulu and Lydia Perry; Chester and Herbert Blackinton; Harry and Herbert Cousland [as it was spelled then]; and Fred, Charley, and Wesley Lewis.

The log building lasted until 1910 when, according to the late George Kingston, it was replaced by a wood-framed structure.
By Bob Anderson

We are sitting at an Indonesian table savoring spring rolls, Javanese sweet soy beef semur, and spicy Sumatran beef balado over organic rice. Only we are here on Guemes, enjoying the hospitality of Fabian Gelael and Zoe Bey in the white and red-trimmed home that rose in 2009 on the corner of the “chicken foot” where Holiday Hideaway begins.

Our generous hosts presented their guests with a framed print of Fabian’s favorite quote: “There’s a destiny that makes us brothers. None goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own.” This seems to sum up the philosophy of the Gelael family.

Not the KFC you know

Fabian’s parents started the first supermarket in Indonesia in the ’60s, and in 1979 founded the first and oldest U.S. restaurant franchise there: Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC). With friend and business partner Jarat, the family company is currently pioneering a new business for producing organic rice and other foods for KFC, and making organic fertilizers available to the public. Jarat grew the rice served at dinner, and he was also a guest.

Zoe’s laptop slide show revealed a different KFC than we see here. These are “full facility dine-in destination cafés” with menus geared to Indonesian tastes. They are large, bright, airy, and modern, and include a dining area, lounges, a birthday party room, a second floor “game zone,” an Internet alcove with free Wi-Fi, and a music stage. Fabian even started a sideline pop-music business for the chain, and their CDs are being widely played on local radio stations. KFC now commands 51 percent of the Indonesian chain-restaurant market.

Since his parents are largely retired, Fabian is CEO of the family business. When out of town he keeps in daily contact with division heads via computer. Zoe leads an eight-person team that designs and furnishes each new individual and unique restaurant. When on Guemes Fabian is the cook, which he has little time for at home. Zoe manages the house, which they furnished by scouring Anacortes area import and antique shops.

From desert to island

Everyone wants to know how these folks found Guemes. Fabian, of Chinese and Indonesian parentage, and Zoe, who is a native Indonesian, met in Palm Desert, California, in 2006. They have both studied, visited, and worked in America off and on and have many U.S. friends and business contacts.

While visiting a former roommate in Auburn in 2009, they mentioned they had wanted their own place in America ever since Fabian fell in love with Cabot Cove, Maine, in the TV series Murder, She Wrote. Their friend suggested checking out an island she had once visited—Guemes. So they drove up, fell in love with the island, and immediately started looking for “their dream spot.”

When they learned their chosen location had a wellhead and nearby eagle nest, they tailored their site and their 1,800-square-foot home to respect these environmental issues using local contractors and builders, many from Guemes. They joked that many islanders passing by freely shared their ecological observations.

My wife, Boots, and I were honored to be invited to the gathering for their home dedication last year, when their Pentacostal pastor and his wife and a house full of family members came to visit. They were all warm and generous people who loved to tell stories, laugh, and hug when greeting or parting. They also said they felt that Guemians share the Indonesian traits of good manners, warmth, and kindness.

Healing, planes, and Guemes

Over dinner Fabian also discussed two of his other passions: natural healing and his collection of remote-controlled planes. He has already met two of the local plane buffs, Ron Knowles and Bob Turner (who lives across the street). They have met many other islanders as well, and have indicated they want to be a real part of the island community during their half-dozen visits a year away from their main family home in “very busy, vibrant Jakarta.”

Although they also have a mountain retreat near Jakarta and an apartment in the Asian hub of Singapore, they say it is their Indonesian-themed “dream home” here on Guemes where they feel most comfortable and where they now spend most of their “getaway” time—“because we love it best.” We Guemians fully understand.
Tips from Guemes Gardeners

Compiler's note: Anyone with gardening in their blood probably has a bad case of “planting itch” now—that overpowering drive to get out and plant seeds or starts in every square inch whenever there’s a sunny day. But is this optimal timing? I asked two of our island gardeners to comment. Send your ideas for May gardening tips to editorial@guemestide.org. —Judith Horton

Joan Petrick

Joan Petrick is a Guemes “gardener of renown.” She has spent 20 years developing her garden on South Shore Road, a lovely mix of flowers, herbs, and vegetables that was featured on last summer’s garden tour. Before that, she gardened anywhere she lived that had a piece of dirt. Recently retired from 30-plus years as a public-school teacher who was adored by students and parents alike, Joan is excited about spending more time in her garden. She and some island friends are discussing the possibility of establishing a produce stand on the island. We’ll keep you posted.

When asked to share some of her gardening tips for spring, Joan replied, “I can never wait for spring,” holds a tray of starts outside one of her new greenhouses.

which protects them from critters and helps them keep growing during the colder weather. They were 3 to 4 inches high when I set them out.

“Next the broccoli and cauliflower will go in, also covered. In fact, I leave the Reemay on them all summer to keep the cabbage moths out. With other vegetables I take the covering off when the weather warms up and it’s not so rainy—usually in May.”

She even starts her peas in the house, and says they transplant just fine. She keeps them under Reemay or a fine wire mesh, which helps protect them from rodent damage. “Rats and squirrels like to pull up the little starts and eat the peas,” she noted. “I don’t uncover them until they are about 6 inches tall.”

Joan says she uses a very mild solution of fish fertilizer when watering her seeds and starts, which she plants in a mixture of peat moss and perlite. This gives them a healthy growing medium to sprout in, and the fish fertilizer gives them the nutrition they need to grow.

Connie Snell

Connie Snell caught the gardening bug 35 years ago while living on Fox Island (about 100 miles south). “It was a wonderful, sunny, southern site,” she explained, adding that her “all-time gardening high” was when that garden produced 56 bountiful tomato plants. When she and husband Bob moved to Guemes in 1994, she described her garden to Elaine Anderson. Elaine just smiled and remarked that Connie might find it “quite a bit more challenging here.” “What an understatement!” says Connie.

When I asked her if anything special was happening in her garden this season, she had an enthusiastic answer. After attending Becky Stinson’s recent workshop on cold frame gardening and learning how much it can expand your gardening season, she says she was totally inspired. Luckily Bob had plenty of scrap lumber, and someone gave them some glass, so now Connie boasts two cold frames that are 34 by 76 inches—a little on the large size but manageable.

She learned from Becky that if you have had trouble germinating seeds, a cold frame is likely to solve your problem. Connie reports having one already planted, and her greens are sprouting nicely. She loves being able to plant from seed, she says, because it allows her to experiment with new varieties that are not available as starts. Of course, you can also use your cold frames for giving starts a boost before planting them out.

With this type of gardening, she adds, you have to know your plants and put them out at the optimal time. For instance, chard and bok choy will bolt unless you transplant them when they are very small. Connie says she is planning to plant again in August and then just eat out of cold frames as long as things last.
Now that Betty Lowman Carey has left on her Final Voyage (see obituary, page 22), I am again reminded of what an incredible life she lived and the legacy she left.

It is summed up, I think, in her book, *Bijaboji, North to Alaska by Oar*, relating the 1937 odyssey that made her famous but to her was just another longer, albeit more treacherous, row among the islands. She didn't even write her book until after grand- and great-grandchildren were part of her life, 67 years after the event.

What a great read. Remember, the Inside Passage was far from the populated avenue it is now. Then charts and navigational aids were primitive or non-existent. And the shadow of the Great Depression hung like an ominous cloud over the land. And she was a woman in a man's world, 35 years before Title IX.

Let's go for a row!

When she shoved off from Guemes’s North Beach she had no radio or weather receiver. Cell phones, emergency locator beacons, and GPS weren't even a Dick Tracy dream. The ultimate light traveler, she carried no navigational equipment, not even a compass or watch.

Imagine her pulling up a chair to list her vital gear:
1. Cooking kit
2. Hunting knife
3. Matches
4. Sleeping “cocoon”

That’s it.

“I was alone, ecstatic, free of self-consciousness about my muscular 160 pounds, free of know-it-alls trying to tell me what equipment I would have bought for the trip if I weren’t crazy,” she wrote.

Simplicity was partly dictated by the size of her craft. The elegant double-end rowing dugout is just 13 feet long. After you read the book, make a trip to the Anacortes Museum to see and feel the actual vessel. It’s like a bonus chapter.

We lost another exceptional pioneering woman last month with the death of Doe Burn. Her obituary, page 23, touches on some of the elements of her journey.

Her early years were nicely summed up in the author’s blurb for *The Summerfolk*: “Mrs. Burn’s studio is a small cabin where she spends the day at work after chopping enough wood to keep the fire going through the day, hauling two buckets of water from the pump for washing brushes and pens and brewing ‘a perpetual pot of tea.’ She looks out on the channel and the beautiful Canadian islands.” And of course there were those four children to care for.

In a 2004 interview with Betty Crookes, Doe related how, during her Waldron Island years, she attempted to break into the big-time world of publishing.

“I borrowed $500 and got on the train with the baby. I stayed in New York for three months. . . . [At Harper’s] they had this plush children’s section, but I don’t think that a child had ever been seen in it. [All the staff] came out to see the baby. I was a phenomenon.”

But no contract was forthcoming. Editors told her there were too many illustrators lined up.

Still, she felt encouraged enough to keep trying. She moved to Seattle and wrote and illustrated *Andrew Henry’s Meadow*, which has become something of a Northwest children’s classic and is still in print.


*Andrew Henry’s Meadow*, San Juan Publishing, 2005

Both books are back-ordered at Anderson’s Store.

With the hands of a blacksmith, the eye of a sculptor, and the devotion of a mother to the craft of wooden boats, Mike Gwost is a 19th-century anomaly in the 21st.

His bones are surely live oak, and when his rawhide skin is cut, he bleeds pine tar.

He is currently resurrecting an 85-year-old 65-foot purse seiner for an owner in Bellingham, a job that caught the eye of *Bellingham Herald* reporter Michelle Nolan, struck by the immensity of the project undertaken by a single shipwright. The result was a two-photo spread that ran February 19. Check it out at www.bellinghamherald.com. Go to “photos” and type in “Michael Gwost.”

This illustration from *Andrew Henry’s Meadow* exemplifies Doe Burn’s charming illustration style.
Beatrice “Betty” Annette Lowman Carey, famous for her swimming feats and adventures rowing a tiny dugout canoe, died March 16 in a hospital near her home in the Queen Charlotte Islands. She was 96.

Betty was born in Anacortes on July 31, 1914 to Raymond and Jean Lowman. She grew up “owning” the Guemes Channel after becoming the youngest person to swim the mile-wide waters at the age of 14. She had no scruples about taking on any challenge because she was a female. (Later she swam from Anacortes to Cypress Island “without fully considering” the tides, barely making the southern tip after five hours.)

She began coming to Guemes as a youth to work on her grandfather’s property on the southwest shore, planted in several varieties of berries. She continued coming here, often by swimming, until 1931 when she graduated as Anacortes High valedictorian and left for college.

In 1937 Betty returned briefly to Guemes to quietly launch her dugout canoe Bijaboji from North Beach for a 66-day, 1,300-mile row to Alaska for which she became a sensation. Three years later she was shipwrecked while crewing on a sailing schooner off the coast of Nova Scotia. On her way home she met Neil G. Carey, a sailor on the USS Colorado. They were married in December 1941.

During the war Betty became a National School Assemblies lecturer telling about the canoe trip, the shipwreck, and other nautical adventures.

In 1953 Betty, Neil, and sons George and Gene circumnavigated Vancouver Island in a Grand Banks codfish dory. They wintered in a cabin on Guemes’s West Beach before finding their retirement home at Puffin Cove on Moresby Island.

In 1963 she rowed Bijaboji from Ketchikan to Anacortes, the only woman to have twice rowed a dugout between Washington and Alaska.

Betty was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in 2002 and suffered a stroke last year.

Husband Neil, sons George and Eugene, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild survive her.

Donations may be made in her name to the Hospital Day Foundation, Box 9, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0, Canada.

Dorothy Rowse Mitchell, a summer resident of Guemes’s West Beach for more than 50 years, died February 26 at 83.

She was born in Seattle March 9, 1927, and graduated from Roosevelt High School before taking a position at the University of Washington, where she worked for 30 years in the continuing-education department.

In 1947 she married Robert Mitchell and together they began coming to Guemes. They purchased property here in 1959, starting a family tradition with their three daughters.

Dorothy had a way of making everyone comfortable and taught her daughters to give of themselves, one of her greatest strengths. She loved the simple pleasures of the family cabin life, including her association with the extended West Beach family of neighbors.

Besides her husband, Bob, survivors include daughters Nancy, Sue (Tod) Anderson, and JoAnne (Michael) Gray, as well as three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held in Seattle on March 9. Remembrances can be made in her name to the Northwest Kidney Foundation.
**Doris Burn**

Former Guemes Islander Doris “Doe” Burn died March 9 in Bellingham at the age of 87.

The noted author wrote and/or illustrated 15 books, including the iconic children's book Andrew Henry's Meadow, published in 1965 and still in print. It won her the Washington State Governor's Art Award for that year.

Many of her books were created by the flickering light of a kerosene lamp in the log cabin on Waldron Island where she raised four children, mostly on her own, without electricity or indoor plumbing.

Doe was born in Portland, Oregon, April 24, 1923, to Adele “Dotty” Wernstedt (Graham) and Lage Wernstedt. Camping with her mountaineer father led to a lifetime love of nature, enthusiasm, and adventure.

When she was six the family moved to Bellingham, where they fell in with the Burn family, including future mother-in-law June, a prominent newspaper columnist. When the Burns bought property on Waldron, the Wernstedts followed. It was during the Great Depression. Five hundred feet of beachfront went for $500. She grew up there, then attended Oregon State College and the University of Washington “because the Burn boys were there.” She married South “Bob” Burn before settling on self-sufficient Waldron, where their four children were born.

To earn a living, she taught school for a year and Bob went to Alaska summers, working on a fishing tender. After they separated, they remained good friends. Meanwhile, Doe continued to write and sketch.

Doe moved to Guemes to care for her mother following the Great Ice Storm of 1990. She remained as a leading figure in the Guemes community and Church through her mother’s death in 2002 before moving to Bellingham.

Survivors include sons Skye, Mark, and Cameron Burn; daughter Lisa Burn; 15 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and her brother, Fredrick Wernstedt.

Services were held March 26 in Bellingham. Memorial gifts can be made in her name to the Waldron Island Community Library, Box 56, Waldron, WA 98297.

**Pat Meyer**

Alan Patrick Meyer, a former resident of Guemes Island, died February 14. He was 65.

Pat was born February 11, 1946, in Vancouver, B.C., and moved with his family to the Seattle area when he was eight. He graduated from Everett High School and Everett Community College before serving in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era.

Following two years in the service, he married Vivian “Viki” Elaine Eaton and the couple entered the moving business, including Viking Moving Services of Anacortes. Pat served in the Rotary Club in Bellevue and was on the board of the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce for three years.

Besides his wife of 43 years, Viki, survivors include daughter Amy Meyer, brother Dave (Kathy) Meyer, and sister Lyn (John) Kilian.

Memorials may be made to pancreatic cancer research, Pasado's Safe Haven, Summit Assistance Dogs, the Cat's Meow, or Wolf Hollow Rehabilitation Center.

Services were held at the Croatian Cultural Center in Anacortes under the care of Evans Funeral Chapel.
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Looking Back
From the Files of the Guemes Island Historical Society

Five Years Ago
The Guemes Island Planning Advisory Committee made plans to host the American Institute of Architects Design Assistance Team to study issues relating to an island sub-area plan.

Shawna Sparrow named finalist in the National American Miss Washington pageant.

Don Taylor, sea captain and pastor, captured in feature by Betty Crookes.

—The Evening Star, April 2006

Ten Years Ago
(April 1 item) With the help of the island’s quilters, “Soon-to-be famous artist Crisko” planned to cover Guemes with castoff hotel sheets. “These women are some of the nimblest needle-slingers in the country,” Crisko allegedly told the Star. “This will be the perfect melding of island handicrafts and laundry.”

Headline: Property Owners Seek Ideas for Guemes “Welcome” Sign

Firefighter Jackie Gladish featured in piece by Mark Spahr.

—The Evening Star, April 2001

Fifteen Years Ago
(April 1 item) Plans to implement “fortress Guemes” and literally raise a drawbridge in order to freeze growth here were announced by the Guemes Ecofriends Taking Outrageously Underhanded Tactics (GETOUT) to preserve the rural way of life on the island.

Jim Dugan was appointed to the Guemes Island Fire Department board of commissioners.

Bob Benjestorf’s remarkable 36-cord “woodpile” accepted as a Guemes Book of World Records item.

—The Evening Star, April 1996

Ninety-Nine Years Ago
First issue of the Guemes Tillikum published, with Charley L. Gant as editor and A. L. Lewis publisher.

* IDLEWILD PARK *

Splendid Place of Recreation for All Health and Pleasure Seekers

“The fact that Guemes Island is one of the most fertile tracts of land within the Puget sound region does not designate that such is her only value.

“The island is blest with miles of excellent and scenic beach and has a climate which is the envy of even Sunny California. Every foot of the thirty miles of beach is an ideal summer resort and open air sanitarium—health giving and pleasant in every respect—and to enhance the value of North Guemes for such purpose, Mr. N. B. Lewis has cleared and beautified Idlewild Park, an ideal resort for health and pleasure (on North Beach). . . . Guests can secure fresh vegetables from the park garden and milk, butter and eggs from the farm proper, adjacent to the park.”

—Guemes Tillikum, April 8, 1912