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JANUARY | 2009



Longbranch *improvement club*

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

The song "White Christmas" was one of the NPR 100 most important musical works of the 20th century ...

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow If you were dreaming of a "White Christmas" in LONGBRANCH, your dreams came true!

In January 1940, Irving Berlin, the most popular songwriter in America, raced into his office and asked his musical secretary to take down a new song. "Not only is it the best song I ever wrote, it's the best song anybody ever wrote," he said. His "White Christmas" was a seasonal, secular hymn that has lasted over half a century.

"Today, we can hardly imagine Christmas without secular Christmas tunes, but really they weren't part of popular music

culture until Irving Berlin wrote 'White Christmas'," says Jody Rosen, author of the new book, *White Christmas: The Story of an American Song*.

Though it has been recorded hundreds of times, the version most people remember is the classic by Bing Crosby. It was first featured in the 1942 film *Holiday Inn* and later in the 1954 movie *White Christmas*.

Susan Stamberg,
MORNING EDITION



Looking out onto Filucy Bay



New Year's Eve to the *big band sounds* of "Spring Fever" Wednesday 12/31/08

New Year's Eve at the LIC - We have the same wonderful caterer returning with sumptuous goodies to tempt your palette, the price is the same \$35 per person and on top of that you'll get to see just how beautiful the Hall really is. Tickets will not be sold at the door but if you reserve them now, with either Carolyn 884-9157 or Marlies 884-5608 they can be picked up at the door.



PRESIDENTS LETTER...

The weather that ushered out 2008 brought as much warmth as it did chill. Kindness and smiles were as commonplace as snowflakes.

Drivers throttled back, letting others merge into lanes with nary a rude gesture. Well, there probably were some, just as a few folks drive with their lights (*but not their brains*) on "bright" and others find ways to occupy three parking places in a crowded lot, but they were rare.

A lot of Peninsula folks made sure our four-footed or feathered neighbors didn't go hungry or thirsty. People were calling snowbound neighbors or acquaintances, ostensibly to say "hello" but really to quietly check on health and well-being. People trudged through the white stuff to check on a snowbird's home.

People were holding the Post Office door open for each other, with a nod and a Merry Christmas.

There are probably a hundred dozen folks here about whom similar stories could be told, but I'd like to pass along three that I became aware of as the snow and the temperatures fell. Some of our neighbors live at the end of long, steep drives on not only side roads but also side side roads. Even if they had been willing to drive in the snow and ice they could move their vehicles out of the garage. Dick Van Cise knows some of those folks, and during the worst of the weather stayed in contact with them.

When they needed groceries or supplies he took his truck up the highway to fill their needs. If he had a full beard he would have been mistaken for Santa. And knowing Marlies, she of course, was a willing participant in this selfless and self-imposed duty.

The water system to the LIC marina has a short section of exposed pipe, bridging the gap from the buried line to the line suspended under the wharf and dock. Exposed is not a bad thing. It's sort of like a shear pin, designed to fail when the temperatures plummet and to protect the far less accessible lines routed under the docks. And, even though the water was turned off, it failed a bit before Christmas. Mark Jones was down in the snow early on the morning of Christmas Eve, buffeted by a bitter wind and clearing away the ice around the failure point as he made the needed repairs.

A couple of days before the storm swept over us Sandy Black was loading his truck with lights, Santas, ornaments and the rest of the decorations he planned to use to transform his boat into a spectacular floating Christmas scene. Before he got out of the driveway he received a frantic phone call. A friend (I believe coming to Longbranch) had set sail from Bremerton and somewhere along the way suffered a significant cerebral accident. He didn't know who he was, he didn't know where he was, and he didn't know where he was going. By the grace of God he had a cell phone, and although he didn't recognize any numbers did manage to hit the redial button. Sandy got him to describe what he could see, and from that narrowed

down where the friend most likely was. Sandy sped to Port Orchard, as instrumental in mounting a search and once having located the friend helped bring him to a hospital and medical care.

I may have some of the details in these stories wrong ... these folks are not prone to toot their own horns but I think they make the Peninsula a pretty special place to live.

By the LIC bylaws, the membership is to consider and ratify the club budget at the general meeting in either January or February. Your board is on track to call for that vote at the February meeting.

This final note is special to me, because I like to ride my bike the seven miles or so from Filucy Bay to Home to pick up the mail. Many of us know Greg Callahan, who offers live music, poetry readings and the use of his parking lot for the Farmer's Market in Key Center.

Greg is now operating the Little Beach Hut & the Home Laundromat in Home. And why is this special? Because he's installed an espresso machine and trained the baristas at the Hut. And bikies fuel up on espresso. So come on down to the Beach Hut!



Have a Happy New Year
Stu Stuhaug, President



Is this an Invitation to Play or Cry for Help?

Events Planning Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
7:00 p.m.. At the LIC bldg.

A proposed calendar has been developed-there is some flexibility for new ideas. Key players are needed to share the load.

Opportunities available incl. but not limited to:

1. Chairing specific events-most of them have been fairly well documented, so you can choose to follow a script or be inventive and do something new.

2. Chair recurring tasks-volunteer recruitment; decorations; publicity; poster/flyer distribution; set-up; clean-up; bar service & inventory; pre-event s hopping, etc.

3. Staffing the kitchen-Peg Bingham and Norma Iverson need back-up. Food Booth Operator training is available only in the Spring-sign up early.

Treats will be available, so R.S.V.P. if you plan to attend - 884-9157 or c.wiley@mac.com

DAN MAZUR
Thursday, February 12,
2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

LIC was fortunate to schedule Dan for this date since it coincides with the Pierce County READS 2009 promotion of Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson. Dan is one of the speakers recommended for this 3-month program. Dan is an engaging speaker who merited world wide acclaim in 2006, for rescuing an Australian climber who had been abandoned on Mount

Everest. This is a free to the public program, donations are accepted.

Incidentally: Compliments about the desserts that appeared at the Helen Thayer event were numerous. (Who made that fantastic Apple Crisp?. A request for your recipe was logged in at the Key Center Library. Do you share?

FEAST OR FAMINE

The 2nd annual Feast of Famine Food Bank Benefit is co-sponsored by LIC, Key Peninsula Community Services, Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, and the Home Port Restaurant. This year's theme is Soup through Thick and Thin and our guest speaker is Judith Weinstock-chef, teacher & author of The Kingston Hotel Café Cookbook. If you attended the event last year, you will recall that the Feast was Fantastic. Feast or Famine follows the traditional "hunger banquet" format-reflecting the distribution of food access world-wide: 10% of the attendees get the *feast*; 20% get an adequate but pedestrian meal; 70% dine at the subsistence level.

Items for a silent auction are being collected. Once again the sale of soup bowls by the Fine Mud Hens and locally-made dried soup mixes will help fill the Food Bank coffers. It is hoped that the benefit will exceed the \$4000 level set in 2008.

Beginning the first week in January, tickets (\$25) will be available through the sponsoring organizations and at Sunnycrest Nursery.

Vicki Biggs is chairing the event., contact Vicki at 884-4468 to volunteer.

Carolyn Wiley,
Events Chair



As may seem obvious from the above photo, we have reached a combined age of 180. (But John's hat is only 57). We have been married for 66 years, retired for 26. What a happy run of good luck we have had! We certainly never expected to live this long. Of course, we have slowed down, 50% to be exact, since it now takes 40 minutes for our traditional 20 minute naps

Long distance travel for us is now limited to pleasant memories. However, in May and June we attended joyous reunions of the classes of 1958 and 1963 on the beautiful campus of Occidental College in Los Angeles. We enjoy visiting with former students.

Our family continues to thrive. We love watching our great-grandchildren grow physically and mentally. Granddaughter Sylvie and husband Ryan now have a second daughter, bringing more joy to our family.

We close with the words of John's Sunday school recitation of Christmas, 1919. "Today, tomorrow, and always as on through the ages we go, may your stocking be filled with good wishes with never a hole in the toe." Ho, ho, ho.

John and Addie McMenamin are active LIC members. They lived in Longbranch for 25 years and were very active community members including having made contributions to the book "Early days on the Key Peninsula".

They have moved to CA to be closer to their son and other family/friends.

Respectfully submitted by Dick and Marlies VanCise



EVENTS REPORT...

January 24 LIC opens the doors to the community...

Come and be captivated by the talents of Evergreen Elementary After 'Ours Drama Team! There will be 3 plays performed:
Cinderella Revisited - Sail On! Sail On!
The Three Swine of Most Small Stature
The Performance will begin at 3pm and is free to the public.

December Building Decoration Bash

December started with a pleasant afternoon of spraying hydrangeas with Laura Mosley. This was followed with the requisite number of miscalculations, missed e-mails & phone calls, but Mike Hays and helpers came through once more. The tree was delivered, erected and decorated on December 6th by a band of merry elves. Marcia Horan was on hand to add those wonderful final touches.

Kids and Christmas

For the first time in 18 years, the resident Longbranch Santa was laid low. However, Santa had already made arrangements for toy pick-up and the task was accomplished thanks to Kyong Bertsch who drove the Key Peninsula Community Services van. If security check-points count-these toys were deemed secure. By a fluke, Mindy Milbourne-the caterer for the New Year's Eve bash-linked us up with a replacement Santa who was delivered by the elves of Fire District 16.

- Lou Smith (Home Port) and family-Sam, Brandon, & Cathy were able-bodied gift wrappers who contributed over a dozen hours to supplemented the efforts of 5 LIC elves.
- The Girls Scouts from Service Unit 22 showed up with a variety of gift projects that kept everyone busy and engaged. Building bird houses was a huge success based upon the "Look-what-I-made" pride on the faces of departing children.
- The only disappointment was the weather kept all but the intrepid at home. Undistributed gifts were passed on to the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center.
- Photo equipment borrowed from the KP community Fair supplemented by a Stuhaug investment reduced the "wait-time" for Santa photos, making that activity go more smoothly than in previous years.
 - *Comments such as:*
"Thank-you so much! Much fun for the family!"
"Great gift ideas-Loved it!" "Great outing for the kids!"
were augmented by two requests for easier bird houses, suggestions for better publicity and a request for better lighting. One parent wrote, " had a lot of fun and I'm glad there are functions like this around the holidays to build a good sense of community. Thank you."
- Thank you to those special 12 essential elves on hand to make the day-Kids and Christmas-so very special for so many children.

First she is there to contribute her formidable skills to Trunk or Treat, then Louise Beam volunteered to make centerpieces for the New Year's Eve party. She had them ready for the Christmas Dinner for all to enjoy-maybe we will be able appreciate them at the re-scheduled Christmas Dinner in January.



Submitted by Carolyn Wiley,
Events Chair

Other Events at a Glance

Including Two Waters Arts Alliance

February 7th, 2009 at 4:00 PM at the KP Civic Center
Tears of Joy-Join us for a performance of "The Shoemaker and the Elves" suggested donation of \$5.00 per family.

March 7th, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the KP Civic Center
Spring Fling is an opportunity for you to enjoy a showcase of KP artists, get a peek at our programs, enjoy great food and music. This year we also invite you to enjoy a showcase of local student talent. Tickets are \$15.00 to the general public \$5.00 per member.

February 24th, LIC Feast or Famine

March 14th, LIC Spuds n Suds on St. Paddy's day-(Two Waters graciously adjusted their Spring Fling date to accommodate my request regarding the scheduling of Spuds 'n Suds, March 14).

FYI per Gano's: WA State Vehicle License Fee Bill SB6900

The bill is SB 6900 and it adds an "engine displacement" fee to the vehicle license tabs upon renewal. The fee has a varied amount depending on the size of the vehicle's engine:

Engine Size (liters) Rate Schedule

Up to 1.9	\$0
2.0 - 2.9	\$70
3.0 - 3.9	\$225
4.0 - 4.9	\$275
5.0 - 5.9	\$325
6.0 - 7.9	\$400
8.0 or over	\$600

For each car & truck that you own, calculate the rate by matching the engine size in liters to the dollar amount. Add the amounts for each vehicle and you'll see that the average two car family will be paying \$500+ every year in "displacement fees" on top of the normal license fees. If you have three vehicles, you'll be paying even more.

The average family is already struggling with the high cost of gasoline, electricity, food and everything else, and our lawmakers want us to pay more, thinking we have unlimited deep pockets. This will do great damage to the budgets of retirees on fixed incomes as well.

Now is the time to be very vocal against this bill. I have contacted all of our representatives, and I would encourage everyone reading this to do the same.

Here's the web page for the bill where you can read the text:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6900&year=2007>

Here's the link for contacting your representatives:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

Pierce County Department of Emergency Management-**Public Notification Resource List**

RADIO

KIRO 97.3 FM and KOMO AM 1000 -- regional emergency broadcast stations
AM 1580 – Pierce County Emergency Information (available in Puyallup Valley)
KGHP FM 104.5, 89.9, 89.3 – Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor information

HAM RADIO OPERATORS

www.vanityhq.com - Locates area amateur radio operators by zip code and address; useful if all other modes of communication are down

E-MAIL/TEXT MESSAGE/PDA SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

(If a person doesn't have access to a computer to sign up for these services, but has a cell phone or PDA device to receive the notifications, they can call the staff at the Pierce County Aging and Disability Resource Center who will sign them up – 253-798-4600)

<http://www.rpin.org>

Regional Public Information Network – Emergency information and traffic information for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish county region

<http://www.mystateusa.com/alertsense>

Weather and emergency alerts based on geographic area

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/ens>

United States Geological Service (USGS) - Earthquake notification system (ENS), based on location

<http://www.thenewtribune.com>

The News Tribune – Pierce County daily paper – for breaking news, sign up under “Member Center” on upper left part of home page

<http://www.king5.com/sharedcontent/membership/join.jsp>

King 5 News – Seattle-based television station – can sign up for breaking news

<http://www.komotv.com/home/ondemand>

KOMO 4 News – Seattle-based television station – can sign up for breaking news for e-mail and desktop and/or mobile device

<http://www.weather.com/alert>

Weather Channel notification alerts, by zip code – can choose what type of weather to get alerts about

<http://www.weather.com/services/notify.html>

Fee-based phone and e-mail alerting system, ‘Notify Plus!’ (\$9.99/month or \$59.99/year – phone and e-mail) and ‘Notify!’ (\$6.99/month or \$39.99/month)

WEBSITES

www.piercecountywa.gov/emergency

Local county emergency information

www.piercecountywa.gov/prepare

“When the Unexpected Happens: Learn How Prepare” Ten minute emergency preparedness video for High Risk Populations by Pierce County Emergency Management

www.nwrifc.noaa.gov

Northwest River Forecast Center provides info. on the status of local rivers

TELEVISION

C-RCC channel 22 Comcast/Click! – Pierce County information

HAM RADIO class now forming: 2 day course at the Pierce County Dept. of Emergency bldg. at 2501 S. 35th St in Tacoma. DATE: January 24th and 31st, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. **Registry:** send your name/email to jharmon@co.pierce.wa.us / Judy Harmon. For more Info. contact Bud Larsen 253.820.9145 or rustymo2@comcast.net. You will learn everything you need to know to earn your entry level FCC Amateur Radio license and begin to talk on the radio with other hams in the area. It is recommended you have a manual but they will be available for purchase at class for \$25.00. The test (\$15.00) will be given on January 31st after the class.

Submitted by Cindy Evans, LIC Member



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-Dec. 15, 2008

Contact: Mary Getchell, Communications Director
(253) 536-6500, ext. 136, cell phone: (253)722-6095

**Pierce County
Library System**
Information & Imagination

What is everyone in Pierce County reading in 2009?

TACOMA – During the second annual Pierce County READS the goal is for thousands of people to read, share and talk about the same book at the same time during the free community one-book program, **Jan. 5-March 28, 2009**.

Pierce County Library System selected the best-selling “Three Cups of Tea” by nationally known award-winning authors Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin as the Pierce County READS book for 2009. This is the story of one man’s mission to promote peace one school at a time.

“Pierce County READS 2009 builds on the success of our first community one-book program where thousands of people came together to read the selected book and meet the best-selling author,” said Neel Parikh, executive director of Pierce County Library. “Community unity is a key goal of the program. Now, more than ever, the Library is here to bridge gaps and bring people together as a community.”

“Three Cups of Tea” has been a #1 New York Times bestseller for nearly two years. Pierce County Library offers the book in paperback, audio downloads, audiobooks and other formats.

The book chronicles the real life story that transports a mountain climber into a school builder/fundraiser to help children, especially girls, in significantly impoverished, illiterate and uneducated Pakistan and Afghanistan villages. The premise of building the schools is to replace bombs with books, guns with pencils, and rhetoric with reading, to gain an educated society that can help itself.

During the three-month program, people may participate in more than 40 free programs and events on topics including literacy, mountaineer search and rescue, mount climbing and volunteerism. The program concludes with David Oliver Relin giving a free presentation and book signing at **Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood on Saturday, March 14, 2009, at 7 p.m.**

Pierce County Library System and The News Tribune present Pierce County READS, sponsored by Key Foundation. Washington State Library, Office of the Secretary of State, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded Pierce County Library Foundation with a grant to support the program.

Many community partners are participating: Associated Ministries, Barnes & Noble, Borders, Clover Park Technical College, Fort Lewis Library, Garfield Book Company, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, King’s Books, Lakewood Historical Society and History Museum, McChord Air Force Base Library, Mostly Books, Pacific Lutheran University, Pierce College, Pierce County Library Foundation and donors, Pierce County Library Friends organizations, Puyallup Public Library, Roy Public Library, Sumner Arts Commission and Waldenbooks.

###

Pierce County READS @ www.piercecountylibrary.org/reading-books/2009-pierce-county/

Neel Parikh, Director * 3005 112th St E * Tacoma, WA 98446-2215 * (253)536-6500 * FAX (253)537-4600



DAN MAZUR is on the list of speakers for Pierce County READS 2009.
The PC Library System will be printing flyers promoting Dan's appearance at LIC

Submitted by Carolyn Wiley, Events Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT...

NOTE: Per Connie Hildahl - there are no minutes in the LIC Newsletter due to cancellation of Christmas Dinner meeting.

Your membership chair apologizes for canceling the Christmas Dinner, but it seemed to be the wiser course.

We made the food bank very happy though with the delivery of 4 turkeys and three big bags of dinner rolls.

But don't fret, I promise to make good on the dinner in January. What makes me sad is you didn't get to see just how beautiful that old building looked. Many thanks to the 20 individuals who helped decorate it. They include Mike Hays (tree picker upper, puter upper and light arranger), Louise Beam, Peg & Larry Bingham, Sandy & Cindy Black, Lynn Carr, Ann Craven, Carmen Davies, Debbie Ehrhardt and daughter, Jo Hamilton, Marcia Horan, Pam & Cliff Lofgren, Pat Muchmore, and Carolyn and David Wiley. You folks did a fantastic job. Thank You.

I also want to focus some special attention on a new member, Louise Beam. She is the queen of Halloween and did a spectacular job of turning the LIC kitchen in to a not too scary "haunted house". She also put Martha Stewart to shame with the decorations she made each table for the cancelled dinner. They were gorgeous and made our tables look unbelievable. If you come to the New Year's Eve dance you will be able to see her handy work although different from what she did for the dinner. Thank you Louise. I am sorry all your work was for naught.

For those of you who may have been one short of the needed meetings requirement, speak to Harry Faas. He will see that some sort of accommodation can be made. If you are short hours. Well, we still have the New Year's Eve Dance. Check with Carolyn on that one.

Have a Happy New Year!

Sue Stuhaug, Membership Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**JANUARY - General "Dessert" Meeting
Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.**

L I C C O N T A I N S

President . . . Stu Stuhaug
884.3685 suestu@centurytel.net

Trustee-At Large . . . Dave Wickland
884.3163 dwick@pacificttrade.com

Vice President . . . Pat Muchmore
360.923.5360 patroon9047@aol.com

Secretary . . . Connie Hildahl
884.1400 rhildahl@centurytel.net

Treasurer . . . Tim Heitzman
884.0577 timheitzman@earthlink.net

Bldg./Grounds Chair . . . Lynn Carr
884.1384 carr44@centurytel.net

Dock Chair . . . Harry Faas
884.6299 delilahhairymary@aol.com

Events Chair . . . Carolyn Wiley
884.9157 c.wiley@mac.com

Membership Chair . . . Sue Stuhaug
884.3685 suestu@centurytel.net

Dock Master . . . Mark Jones
884.5653 / 884.5137^{Dock} Lmjones@centurytel.net

LIC Building Rentals . . . Marlies VanCise
884.5608 / 884.6022^{Clubhouse} beachwoods@centurytel.net

LIC Bldg. Cleaning . . . Jerrod /Angelina Landsberger
253.255.2380 LZ_services@msn.com

Hospitality/Greeter Meetings . . . Carmen Davies
884.9128 cloudrider@cableseed.com

Kitchen/Food Services . . . Norma Iverson
884.4564 vgiverson@centurytel.net

LIC Adopt-A-Road . . . Bob McFarlane
884.1314 robertmcfarlane1@mac.com

Scholarship . . . Dick Dixon
884.2241 ramdixon@aol.com

Nature Trail Development . . . Rich Hildahl
884.1400 rhildahl@centurytel.net

Children's Programs . . . Debbie Ehrhardt
884.6382 debbie@harvest-timber.com

Office Volunteer . . . Gretchen Lippert
884.2290 gmlippert@yahoo.com

LIC Historian . . . Jackie Furrey
884.6438 blanche2004@msn.com

LIC Newsletter . . . Norma-Jean Gibson
884.6556 normajeangibson@remax.net

LIC Newsletter (mail distribution) . . . Don/Carmen Davies
884.9128 cloudrider@cablespeed.com

WEBSITE: www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

EMAIL: lic@longbranchimprovementclub.org



Longbranch Improvement Club
 PO Box 111
 Lakebay WA 98349

Longbranch Classifieds

To place your ad here . . .

Longbranch classifieds are free for members, low-cost for the community. Call Norma-Jean 253.884.6556 or send your ad copy to normajeangibson@remax.net



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