

PNW BAINBRIDGE

SUMMER ISSUE 2022

yesterday, today, tomorrow



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ne of the more profound decisions in my life was to take up tennis. My husband is a lifelong player, so I picked up the sport too, not in small part because the clothes are epic. (That's not the profound part, that's one of the expensive parts.)

I've always been an athlete, and I'm tall, so I thought I'd be a shoo-in for greatness. I did go from total beginner to decent rec player in about 60 seconds, but my ascension leveled out dramatically thereafter. Plus, there's the reality of getting older and having used up my last traces of knee cartilage. One upside to aging (I've heard) is that though you get slower, in return you get smarter. I'm still waiting for that perk.

But the thing about tennis that keeps me coming back are the friendships. There's the gal who took me under her wing and invited me to a singles drill when I didn't know a soul, the cagey, gorgeous veteran who calls me hottie when I make a good shot, the former college volleyball player with the gigantic serve who is my go-to for any and all advice and the spunky lefty who eats Snickers before every match, not to mention the little blond with icy blue eyes who sends me funny memes every morning before I wake up.

Sometimes a young hotshot comes along and energizes us with her taut skin and insane ability to roll off the court and bounce up like nothing happened. And sometimes we lose someone so precious that it's impossible to think about the game, and life, without her. Some leave for the winter months and when they come back, it's like Christmas in springtime. A dozen women who I genuinely love.

In a longwinded way, what I'm really talking about here is the importance of community. Since we began this magazine, I've had many opportunities to reflect on why we do what we do. What do we give to the Bainbridge community and what does it feed us in return? As author and lecturer Brené Brown says, we want to surround ourselves with people who protect our light—and it's fundamental to our whole PNW Bainbridge team that we protect and celebrate our community's light.

Sure, just like on my tennis team, we sometimes annoy the socks off each other, but make no mistake, what we have here on Bainbridge is the real deal. Real community. Family. A rare and special place. No, we're not perfect, but we're solid as a rock.



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publisher's corner

Although I come from a multi-racial background, my upbringing was most heavily influenced by the Latinx side of my family. I didn't grow up with economic privilege, nor did I feel rooted—because the community where we lived didn't culturally embrace families like mine. But after coming to Bainbridge in 2015, I sensed a different drumbeat. On walks I found myself meeting the owners of wineries, clothing stores and community leaders. I was in awe at how many businesses were women-owned and the influential people available to learn from. This got me buzzing and jumping into the community headfirst, its shared passion and spirit of inclusion encouraged me to do more—to start a business, get involved and give back by serving on boards and committees, even to help launch a new magazine. Annual events and festivals don't magically happen—it takes dedication, a strong community, and sometimes an obsessively involved individual to see it through.



Natalie

Natalie Rodriguez
Publisher



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Give us some bloom! Many thanks to Misha Gillingham for our beautiful cover photograph from "Blooms & Dreams" by Misha Gillingham. Photography by Alexis Gonzalez. Reprinted by permission of Gibbs Smith Books.

| EPILOGUE |

Travel essayist and novelist Pico Iyer

wrote, "The beauty of any first time is that it leads to a thousand others." The thought of that as it pertains to PNW Bainbridge Magazine fills me with both joy and horror, but mostly with joy. Plus, the chance that I'll live long enough to put out 1,000 issues is slim, thank goodness. Getting the first issue out was exhilarating; getting the second out was less scary. Both the peaks and valleys are calming down.

The biggest news is that since the premier issue's printing, it looks like (fingers crossed) the COVID pandemic is winding down, not in small part because of the vaccines and the people who administer them. Mark Tan, owner of Bainbridge Community Pharmacy, followed up with us, reporting that they are administering 40 to 60 boosters a day. The Senior Center is temporarily acting as a clinic to help the pharmacy cope with demand. Let's hope we keep trending in the right direction. In related news, in the Bainbridge Prepared feature (page 42), Loren Bast's wife, Amanda, was incorrectly named as Heather. Heather is Jared Moravec's wife. Our apologies. All involved took the mix-up in good humor, for which we thank them.

The 80th anniversary of the Japanese American Exclusion took place on March 30. Lilly Kodama, from whose perspective the story of the Exclusion was told in the Let it not Happen Again feature (page 32), said that the memorial was a special event and quite meaningful. "So many people were involved in its success," wrote Kodama in a follow-up email. "Carol Rietz did a great job heading it. What was especially touching for me was the attendance of several survivors in their nineties who were able to be with us. All were accompanied by their families."

Finally, David W. Cohen, PNW Bainbridge magazine photographer and subject of the Mise en Place home feature (page 48), would like to acknowledge someone he forgot to mention during the interview but who played an integral role in the craftsmanship of the home. Hugh Montgomery, of Hugh Montgomery Woodworking, built the custom cabinetry. We, along with Cohen, are happy to acknowledge Montgomery's superb work and artistry.

Allison

David Cohen

David Cohen first became interested in photography as the result of the black and white etchings in his Pittsburgh childhood home which lined the steps going to the second and third floors. Later, Cohen became fascinated with images of buildings and homes. The lines, lighting and ultimately the photographer's primary focus point were inspiring. The key, he learned, is to find the unique soul in each of the structures. He says, "It pays to be a good and patient observer!"



Annie Graebner

Annie Graebner is a portrait photographer who captures moments, life and stories, blending a mix of candid and lifestyle elements. She was born and raised in the greater Seattle area and received her undergraduate business and master's degrees from the University of Washington. Before her career as a CPA began, Graebner lived in Siena, Italy where she studied photography and fell in love with the craft. In September 2007, she launched annie g photography. Graebner, her husband Kyle, and their three kids moved from Queen Anne to the island in 2020. They are thrilled to be a part of this wonderful community.



Jeff Fraga

Jeff Fraga writes annual and sustainability reports for companies such as PepsiCo, Southwest Airlines, Target and Microsoft. When he isn't writing for them, he's writing for himself. He has written a Christmas musical, several 10-minute plays (including some that were part of the Island Theatre Ten-Minute Play Festival), a mystery novel, and several Hawaiian pop songs. A confirmed foodie, he once spent a week in the Paris kitchen of the Michelin 3-star restaurant Guy Savoy. Closer to home, Jeff lives on Bainbridge Island in a 117-year-old stone house with his wife, Kathe, and the occasional Fraga child returning to the nest for a quick visit. He loves hiking the Bainbridge trails and discovering the season's first trillium.




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PHOTO BY BEN DRURY

Prepare to be Amazed

The Labyrinth of Crete, according to Greek mythology, was built to house the Minotaur, a short-tempered man-bull hybrid who passed his time feasting on youths and maidens. Bainbridge, not to be outdone by a sister island, is home to a labyrinth of its own. Located at Halls Hill Lookout on Blakely Harbor, our local labyrinth was created by Portland artist and landscape designer Jeffrey Bale. The 36-foot diameter design, built from stones found on Bainbridge Island beaches, consists of 12 circuits. Each twist and turn carries a special meaning, from the four seasons to the Greek gods to the planets of the solar system. The Bainbridge labyrinth was not devised to imprison a ravenous monster, but rather as a meditative space. The circuitous journey to the center and out again is meant to leave the adventurer grounded, focused and energized. For those still reluctant to risk a surprise encounter with a hungry maze-dweller, the park has more to offer. There are winding paths through native trees and plants, a 300-pound bronze prayer wheel, carvings by regional artists and a chair swing perched on a high bluff overlooking the harbor. The Halls Hill Lookout & Labyrinth was donated to the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation by IslandWood founders Debbi and Paul Brainerd. It is open year-round from dawn to dusk.

BY
GEORGE
SOLTES

➔ **More information** at biparksfoundation.org/halls-hills



Look Out BELOW

On Bainbridge Island, even the manhole covers have style.

As you rush through the Farmers Market to be first in line for squash, you might not realize that you are walking over a piece of public art. The “hidden” artwork is underfoot at the Bainbridge Town Square. Created by local artist Michele Van Slyke in 1990, the cast bronze disks depict a ripe strawberry with three fish darting past.

The manhole covers are just one of numerous creative installations across the island

curated by Arts & Humanities Bainbridge (AHB). Among them are a multicolored terracotta egg covered in a mosaic of stained glass and beads on Winslow Way; a pair of playful bronze bay otters at the Bainbridge Public Library; towering Blakely Rock Man, a 12-foot tall, 1,500-pound granite yogi at the junction of Miller and Day Roads and dozens more.

AHB has worked for over 35 years to create connections between artists and the community and to enhance our public spaces with art. The nonprofit’s decades of

effort were recognized in October 2021, when the Washington State Arts Commission designated Bainbridge as the state’s 11th Certified Creative District.

So next time you’re hurrying around the island, consider slowing down to take a look around. There’s a good chance you will find a piece of amazing artwork staring back at you. Don’t worry—the squash will still be there when you’re done.

**BY
GEORGE
SOLTES**
PHOTO BY
GEORGE
SOLTES

 **More information at**
ahbainbridge.org.

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our community



DINKS, DRIVES AND DILLBALLS

Bob Smith, Carol Stover,
Scott Stover and JB
McCallum (left to right)
playing at Barney
McCallum's house
around 1974

COURTESY OF SCOTT AND
CAROL STOVER

Bainbridge's Quirky OG Sport of **Pickleball**

It doesn't look like much, just a concrete rectangle hidden in the trees with a little cabin perched at one end. Cracks run across the grey asphalt where underlying roots work to break through. Faint white boundary lines crisscross the surface. A net bisects the slab.

BY
GEORGE
SOLTES

To certain sports aficionados, however, this modest piece of pavement is a shrine. Referred to with near reverence as Court #1, it is the place where the first ever game of pickleball was played.

The story is well known to pickleball lovers. On an overcast summer day in 1965, Joel Pritchard and Bill Bell returned to Pritchard's Pleasant Beach home after a round of golf to find a house full of bored, fractious kids. Anxious to move the children outside, they scrounged around and came up with some ping-pong paddles and a plastic Wiffle Ball. The youngsters were sent out to an old badminton court to play.

Bell and Pritchard soon joined the fun. The kids were gradually elbowed aside as the men became competitive, arguing about how the game should be played and making up rules as they went along. The following weekend, they were joined by neighbor Barney McCallum. As the friends hit the ball around, the game began to take shape. What ultimately emerged was an amalgam of tennis, ping-pong and badminton, plus a few quirks all its own. Pickleball was born.



The Shrine: Court #1 today
PHOTO BY GEORGE SOLTES



Governor Jay Inslee takes his shot as pickleball becomes state sport.
PHOTO BY JAMES OAS



The Founders:
Joel Pritchard, Barney McCallum
and Bill Bell in the late 1980s
COURTESY OF SCOTT AND CAROL STOVER

Today, according to the Sports and Industry Fitness Foundation, pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, with an estimated 4.8 million players and a growth rate of about 20 percent each year. The sport boasts its own professional tour, with top players earning close to \$300,000 annually in prizes and sponsorships. Outside the U.S., the International Federation of Pickleball lists 70 member nations and counting. There is even a bid to make pickleball an Olympic event, with organizers pushing for its inclusion in the 2028 Olympics as a demonstration sport.

Mike Hoxie, president of Pickleball is Great, manages pickleball tournaments around the

country. He founded the company in 2016 and organized six tournaments that year. Last year, the company hosted 65 tournaments in 11 states with over 10,000 players. Hoxie ascribes the sport's explosion in popularity to its multigenerational appeal and quick learning curve. "It hits all demographics, all ages, all skills. Anyone can walk on the court and learn," he said. "It's a fun sport for everybody. The best line I've heard is that if you're not laughing, you're not doing it right."

As the sport spread across the globe, local pickleballers Clay Roberts and Bill Walker shared a vision to honor its origins on Bainbridge Island. Following the pair's enthusiastic lobbying of the Park District and a flood of donations from island players, the Founders Courts opened at Battle Point Park in



PHOTO BY JAMES OAS

2020 with six dedicated pickleball courts and the later addition of a courtside historical plaza. Play time on the courts is now one of the hottest tickets in town. "The credit goes to the community," Roberts said. "They have been consistently and continuously generous beyond my expectations." In August 2022, the courts will host the 3rd Annual Bainbridge Island Founders Tournament, a fundraiser for the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum. Hoxie, who has run the tournament since its inception, and Roberts, who helps

staff it with volunteers, expect a capacity crowd of around 400 competitors. "It's been a fantastic event," Hoxie said. "Many players come to the tournament to experience Bainbridge Island and they fall in love with it."

Other than a new net, the court where it all started has not changed since the founders first played the game there in 1965. Scott Stover, owner of the property since 1984, welcomes the pilgrims who sometimes show up to pay homage to pickleball's birthplace. "I clean up the area around it and keep the weeds down so it looks presentable," Stover said. This past March, Governor Jay Inslee came by to sign into law a bill designating pickleball the official sport of Washington State. "We just saw this as a backyard game," said Stover, who first played as a teenager 55 years ago using a plywood paddle fashioned by McCallum. "Now it's all over the place."

Our Community is an ongoing collaboration with the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum. This series, in conjunction with BIHM's new *Our Community: Past to Present* exhibit, explores the diverse voices that make up our island.



WHY IS IT CALLED PICKLEBALL?



As the story goes, the name originated with the Pritchard's mischievous cockapoo puppy Pickles, who loved to watch the bright plastic ball sail back and forth over the net and took every opportunity to steal the ball and run away with it. Joel Pritchard related this anecdote to a reporter for a national publication in the early 1970s and it became part of pickleball lore, repeated in articles about the game ever since.

The only problem? It isn't true.

In reality, Joel's wife, Joan, an avid crew fan, came up with the term. The new game, with its hodge-podge of parts borrowed from other sports, reminded her of the pickle boat in crew meets. This was the boat, manned by whichever random oarsmen missed the cut for the varsity team, that was allowed to race after the real teams had competed.

Joel proposed the cute but fictitious alternative to the interviewer, who agreed that it was an improvement on the actual story and went with it. Thus did Pickles the dog, who in fact joined the Pritchard family a few years after the game was invented, become a legend.

Celebrate

Bainbridge Island

July

4 DAYS—15 LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS!

Event

When

Where

1st

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

5PM–8PM

DOWNTOWN

MOONLIGHT MARKET

5PM–9PM

TOWN SQUARE

ROTARY AUCTION PREVIEW

5PM–8PM

WOODWARD SCHOOL

2nd

ROTARY AUCTION



8AM–2PM

WOODWARD SCHOOL

3rd

OLD TIMERS BASEBALL GAME

NOON

BHS BASEBALL FIELDS

CREATIVE DISTRICT
LAUNCH



5PM–6PM

WINSLOW WAY

STREET DANCE

6PM–11PM

WINSLOW WAY

4th

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

7AM–11AM

T & C WEST PARKING LOT

BYS FAMILY FUN RUN

9AM–11AM

ISLAND FITNESS SOUTH PARKING LOT

CAR SHOW

9AM–1PM

BEHIND COLUMBIA BANK

STREET FAIR

9AM–5PM

BJUNE DR & BRIEN DR

KIDS ZONE

9AM–5PM

WATERFRONT PARK

LIVE MUSIC STAGE

10AM–5PM

T & C WEST PARKING LOT

BEER & WINE GARDEN

11AM–5PM

WATERFRONT PARK

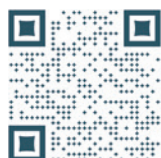
HOMETOWN PARADE

1PM–3PM

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Bainbridge is **NOT** Boring!

A SUMMER GUIDE FOR **CYNICAL TEENS**

If you ask a kid about summer on Bainbridge Island, there is a good chance they will respond, "There's nothing to do!" So, so wrong. Our island may be small, but what it lacks in KFCs and skating rinks, it more than makes up for in other ways. Bainbridge boasts beautiful weather, ethereal scenery and a variety of fun activities during the summer. The island is known for its rich history and is a great place for those who enjoy learning, appreciating the arts and being outdoors. If you're a young person looking for things to do, this list is for you!

Bainbridge Island Museum of Art

BIMA is a contemporary art museum that highlights work by regional artists. It also offers a range of events and looks for ways to get youth involved. The museum's charming cafe serves light meals, snacks and drinks. Sarai Schwartz, a junior at BHS, said she likes to stop by every now and then to admire the innovative art works. She said she enjoys how this museum gives a voice to less-mainstream artists and uplifts the community where they live. BIMA also emphasizes sustainability and the environmental effects of its actions.

Bainbridge Island Farmers Market

The Farmers Market at Town Square near City Hall operates on Saturdays from April to November. You'll find dozens of local vendors, from farmers to crafters and food sellers. Make sure to collect all your favorite items! BHS junior Sophie Hegarty visits the market on as many weekends as possible during the summer. She said it is a great place to experience the laidback island culture and enjoy being part of the community. It's also a source for locally grown fresh foods, delicious breads and pastries, and handmade artisan items.

Pritchard Park

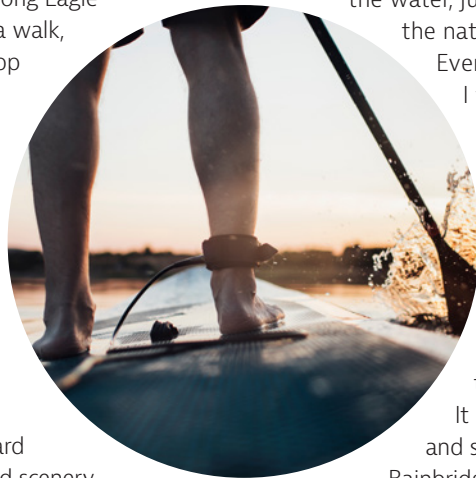
Pritchard Park offers a stellar view of the Sound, the ferry and the Seattle skyline.

At this 50-acre park along Eagle Harbor, you can take a walk, have a picnic lunch, hop in the water to cool down or set up camp. Some of the land is a former Superfund environmental cleanup site. Nearby is the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. My friends and I spend a lot of the summer at Pritchard soaking up the sun and scenery.

BARN

Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network offers all sorts of creative classes, ranging from cooking to metal working. This is a

BY SAI
PRAKASH



great way to explore your interests—and meet new people who enjoy doing the same things as you. Along with classes, BARN schedules workshops and special events. Pragna Prakash, a 7th grader at Woodward, said she likes to go to BARN with her friends to work on new and exciting projects.

Paddleboarding

The island offers several locations for paddleboard/kayak rentals. Bainbridge summer is a great time to get out on the water and enjoy views of the Cascade and Olympic mountains, the Seattle skyline, Mount Rainier and Puget Sound wildlife. On the warmest days, it's also the perfect way to cool off. "Try to catch a sunrise paddle," advised Roan Dalton, a junior at BHS. "It's pretty therapeutic to be out on the water, just truly appreciating the natural beauty around me.

Every time I'm out there, I feel so grateful to live in a place where I can actually do this."

Bainbridge Island Historical Museum

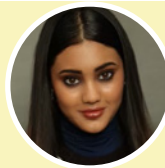
This museum is the perfect place to get to know the island.

It pledges to preserve and share the stories of

Bainbridge and promote understanding. One goal is rise above racism and inequality by celebrating the diverse stories of the community and eliminating "otherness." The museum welcomes youth volunteers. Lucas Massa, a junior at BHS, said, "I always have so much fun volunteering at the Historical Museum! I'm able to contribute to the community, interact with visitors and learn more about Bainbridge Island's history and culture. The Historical Museum is the perfect place for students looking to become more involved in community service."

So, if you're a teen (or know one) who thinks that there's nothing to do on Bainbridge, think again. Summer fun awaits!

It was clear from the start that **Sai Prakash** liked to tell stories. After watching a movie as a toddler, she would reimagine the film to her liking and narrate the improved version to her parents. The aspiring writer is a junior at Bainbridge High School, where she is busy putting together her own publication, *Bloom Magazine*. She is currently looking for student writers, photographers and artists to submit their work for the first issue.





End of Week, Beginning of Month

**FIRST
FRIDAYS
ARE BACK
IN THE
SWING OF
THINGS**

First Friday Art Walks

set Winslow aglow each month, with art lovers drifting from gallery to store, artists chatting about their work, live music playing along the way and, yes, food and drink.

With summer on the way, First Fridays offer ways to build that feeling of community, said Michael Goodnow, executive director of the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association. "We want this to be a magical, mystical, memorable night."

These evenings that pay homage to creativity began about two decades

**BY
CONNIE BYE**
PHOTOS COURTESY
BAINBRIDGE ARTS
& CRAFTS

ago as Quarterly Art Walks, said Andrea Roby-King, co-owner and co-director of Roby King Gallery.

"At that time, there were many more galleries in Winslow, and openings were on different evenings," Roby-King said in an email interview. Then, Kathleen Thorne organized Sunday afternoon events that encompassed a variety of arts, including music, poetry readings, dance and food. Gradually, those events and the gallery openings blended, she said.

While island visitors are always welcome, First Fridays largely are for the community, Goodnow said. "It's for people who love art or are art-curious."

After mandated COVID shutdowns for part of 2020, Bainbridge Arts & Crafts began holding low-key, masked First Fridays, said Debra Ruzinsky, executive director of the nonprofit gallery.

"I was impressed with how many people were coming to see art, to purchase art" even during a pandemic, she said. "I think people were tired of staring at the same four walls at home. They were looking for ways to refocus their attention."

shorts

The gallery began seeing an uptick in visitors as mask mandates were lifted earlier this year, Ruzinsky said. First Fridays also are an opportunity for artists to meet and talk with people, Roby-King and Ruzinsky noted.

"One of our missions is to support artists and their creative lives," Ruzinsky said. At various points this summer, the gallery will highlight artists who've been featured in the past—and artists whose work has never been shown before at Bainbridge Arts & Crafts.

Goodnow is exploring ways to expand Art Walk participation. "Maybe we could have artist demonstrations or something hands-on, where people could pick up a brush and add to a canvas," he said.

To help build interest, the Downtown Association is producing posters each month, showcasing work by one of the featured artists, Goodnow said. "Hopefully, that piece will stir you, and you'll want to see it in person."

Also, monthly Moonlight Markets, featuring food, artists and craftspeople, are scheduled to resume this summer on the lawn between City Hall and Bainbridge Performing Arts, he noted. Although the events aren't officially part of First Fridays, they are on the same nights.



In July, the downtown area officially becomes a state-certified Creative District, Goodnow said, with highway signs pointing the way. The Art Walks played a role in winning that designation, along with the abundance of chefs, winemakers, museums and other creative entities in the area, he said. "There's so much talent on this island."



Check bainbridgetowntown.org/events/art-walk for a list of First Friday Art Walk participants each month.

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BRINGING OCEAN TO DOORSTEP



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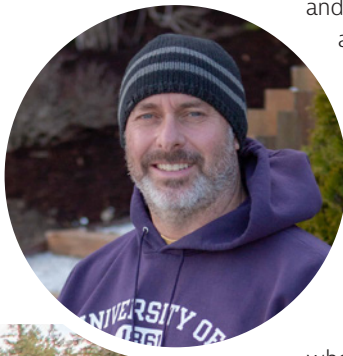


Where one person sees a pile of oyster shells, islander Mark Soboil saw a sustainable resource just waiting to be recycled and reused.

When Soboil's work overseas in fisheries compliance came to a halt during the COVID travel bans, he started thinking more about local oyster farms and their discarded shells which, because of environmental concerns, are now dumped on land rather than back into the ocean. His unique take on middens—the proper name for the heaps of shells—was born out of the combination of his Ph.D. in marine science, a firsthand knowledge of the landscaping business and a passion for using ecofriendly local materials.

Growing up in South Africa, Soboil logged many hours working for his parents' landscaping company and as an adult spent time on the East Coast, where towns regularly

BY
**LARA
DUNNING**
PHOTOS BY
ANNIE GRAEBNER



used shell landscaping. Combining experience and knowledge, he launched Shellscales in 2020. While the company initially focused on supplying crushed oyster shells for landscaping, when Soboil discovered that many landscapers were unfamiliar with working with the material, Shellscales evolved into offering landscape design and services.

"It's really rewarding to incorporate my passions for marine science with landscape design," said Soboil. "I feel lucky to have fallen into this role to tie these two disciplines together and take a more holistic and environmentally sound approach to landscaping."

Working alongside Soboil is a dedicated core team: Lisa Cass, Lou Rowe and Bryan Woodward. Each brings their own expertise and years of landscaping experience to tailor service to any project, whether it's fabrication and hardscaping, finding plants to complement the designs and clients' preferences, or listening to ideas and providing creative solutions.

"My work in the marine sciences was systematic, whereas landscaping is very innovative; it's an art," said Soboil. "I've never had a chance to foster that side of myself, and I just love that I get to do that and be surrounded by such creative people."

While most of its shells come from partner Minterbrook Oyster Farm, the company has expanded to meet the needs of local restaurants with a recycling service called the Yellow Bin Program. One of its regular customers is Salish Sea Greens, which creates oyster pop-up events. Shellscales provides them with yellow bins for discarded oyster shells. Once the bins are full, Shellscales picks them up and gives the shells a new life.

Shellscales specializes in a variety of landscaping and design services, including driveways, walkways, patios, courtyards, fire pit areas, stairways, training walls, fences and bocce courts. It also offers general maintenance such as pruning, edging, mowing, composting, mulching, weeding, pressure washing patios, decks, driveways, and roof and gutter cleaning.

While each person's landscaping needs are different, all clients benefit from the built-in advantages of shell landscaping. Oyster shells act as a natural fertilizer and weed deterrent. They re-calcify and harden, making them very durable and, like shale, break into flakes, creating a smooth surface to walk on with bare feet. Additionally, since oyster shells don't lose their white color, they provide a striking and clean aesthetic to brighten up those gray Pacific Northwest days and serve as a reminder of the joys of living next to the water.

"We have so many large evergreen trees and plants in the Pacific Northwest that they can dominate the landscape separating you from the ocean," said Soboil. "Using crushed shells in landscaping reconnects you back to the water and reminds you we live in a coastal state."

 **For more information, visit**
[shell-scales.com](https://www.shell-scales.com).



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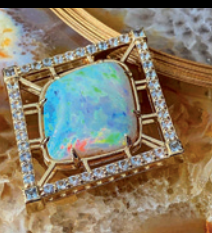
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Bringing Designs to Life





Showing **OUR STRIPES**

Bainbridge Ramps Up for the Return of Beloved Grand Old 4th & Celebrate Bainbridge Island

After two years of waiting, dust off your best stars and stripes and break out your dancing shoes, because **Celebrate Bainbridge Island** and the **55th annual Grand Old 4th** is returning in all its star-spangled glory.

"Since 1967 our small town has come together in a big way to celebrate July 4," Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Stefan Goldby said. "We're so excited to restore not just

our tradition of the Grand Old 4th, but to see all the events from 14 of the island's incredible organizations form this year's four-day epic Celebrate Bainbridge Island festivities."

Before he moved here, Bainbridge Island City Manager Blair King said he'd heard the island's July 4 celebration was a huge community event, "and I'll be glad to see it in person this year. Celebration is an important ingredient in creating community, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. I love music and eating, and the Grand Old 4th sounds like it will provide opportunity for both."

And this is the best part: There's something for everyone—from islander newbies to familiar faces, the young and the young at heart. Each of us can enjoy a slice of this beloved pastime once again.

BY
Chantelle
Lusebrink
PHOTOS BY
KEITH BROFSKY





★ July 1

The official kickoff to this extravaganza starts with the annual casing of wares at the **Rotary Club's Auction & Rummage Sale Preview**. You can plot what items to make a dash for the next day. On the surface, this incredible fundraiser is all very friendly. But local lore likens it to the island's unofficial competitive sport—move over pickleball!

July 1 is also **First Friday Art Walk and Moonlight Market**. It's the perfect excuse to enjoy a stroll downtown and pick a perch for dinner and drinks.

★ July 2

In its 62nd year, we hear there will be some amazing items at this year's **Rotary Auction**. Many were stashed away during COVID, just waiting for the live event to take place again. So, if you happen to go slightly over your bidding budget, just remember it's for a great cause. Money raised creates parks and sports fields, provides college scholarships, funds water programs in Uganda and sanitation equipment in Guatemala as well as local COVID-19 relief.

★ July 3

Warmed up? Get ready for a full day. At noon, the **Stars & Strikes Old Timers Alumni Baseball Game** gets under way at BHS. Former players and coaches round the diamond to raise money for the community—and, of course, for bragging rights.

After a short unveiling ceremony on Olympic Drive, **Arts & Humanities Bainbridge** and its community partners celebrate the Island being recognized as the state's 11th Certified Creative District.

At 6 p.m., grab the kids, slip on those boogie shoes and head over to the **Downtown Association's Street Dance**. Drop by the KiDiMu kid zone, then enjoy live music sponsored by Puget Sound Energy on the Virginia Mason Franciscan Health stage. Adults can kick back in the Fletcher Bay Winery and Bainbridge Brewing-sponsored Beer and Wine Garden.

★ July 4

Rise and shine! Grab your sneakers and get to the starting line for **Bainbridge Youth Services Fun Run**. Proceeds benefit youth programming on the island.

After you've worked up an appetite, pick up a short stack at the **BHS Boosters Club Traditional Pancake Breakfast** at Town & Country. Hot cakes are served until 11 a.m. and proceeds benefit programming at the high school. And just to be clear, you can totally hit the pancakes even if you skipped the run!

Bjune Drive and adjacent parking lots will be buzzing by 9 a.m. as the **Grand Old 4th Car Show** kicks off with a DJ and more than 100 entries from collectors near and far vying for a custom trophy made by Modern Collision Rebuild & Service. **The Street Fair**, sponsored by Kitsap Bank, starts at 9 a.m. and features more than 100 artisans and a Play Zone for children with pony rides and a giant slide. You'll also find a bevy of food vendors and the **Waterfront Beer Garden** hosted by Bainbridge Brewing open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Throughout the day, stop by the **GO4 Live Stage** and enjoy the sounds of Soul Siren and other local acts.

This year's **Grand Old 4th Parade**, sponsored by First Fed, starts at 1 p.m. and will showcase the island's incredible community spirit, youth and community organizations, local businesses and civic leaders. The route runs along Madison Avenue North and extends to Winslow Way and Ericksen Avenue.

And yes, the elephant in the room—COVID-19—is being planned for, Goldby said.

"We're using all available resources and best practices from other communities to ensure this event is fun and safe for everyone to enjoy," he said.

"At its heart, Celebrate Bainbridge Island has always been an event that truly embodies the wonderful character and spirit of this community," Goldby added. "But this year, in particular, it showcases our community's resilience as well."



CELEBRATE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND – 2022 EVENTS

JULY 1

5-8 p.m. – Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island Auction & Rummage Sale Preview at Woodward Middle School (9125 Sportsman Club Road NE)

5-8 p.m. – First Friday Art Walk in Downtown Winslow (Winslow Way, Madison Avenue, Parfitt Way, Ericksen Avenue)

5-9 p.m. – Moonlight Market (Town Square near City Hall)

JULY 2

8 a.m.-2 p.m. – Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island Auction & Rummage Sale at Woodward Middle School (9125 Sportsman Club Road NE)

JULY 3

Noon – Stars & Strikes Old Timers Alumni Baseball Game at Bainbridge Island High School Baseball Fields (9330 High School Road NE)

5-6 p.m. – Bainbridge Creative District Launch Party at The Rock at The Ravine Stage (behind Bainbridge Island Apothecary & Tea - 450 Winslow Way E)

6-11 p.m. – Street Dance on Winslow Way

JULY 4

7-11 a.m. – BHS Boosters Club Traditional Pancake Breakfast at Town & Country Market (west parking lot at 343 Winslow Way E)

9 a.m.-1 p.m. – Grand Old 4th Car Show at Columbia Bank and Chase Banks (parking lots directly behind the banks at 249 Winslow Way E)

9 a.m. – Bainbridge Youth Services Fun Run. 1 mile 9 a.m., 5k 9:15 a.m., Kids Dash 10:30 a.m. (various start locations downtown Winslow)

9 a.m.-5 p.m. – Street Fair on Bjune Drive (between Madison Avenue and Brien Drive)

10 a.m.-5 p.m. – GO4 Live Stage featuring Soul Siren & other local acts

11 a.m.-5 p.m. – Waterfront Beer Garden at Bainbridge Island Rowing Center (301 Shannon Drive SE)

1-3 p.m. – Grand Old 4th Hometown Parade (Madison Avenue to Winslow Way and east to Ericksen Avenue)

Talkin' TRASH

BY
LARA
DUNNING

PHOTOS BY
DAVID COHEN

Some things simply matter more when you live on Bainbridge. There are the obvious issues like ferry schedules and downed power lines, as well as less predictable quandaries such as where the peacock lives and how to navigate roundabouts. Living here also means that most of us think more and talk more about how to dispose of our garbage, yard waste and rubbish than do our mainland counterparts. After all, if mismanaged, it's easy to see how the refuse could pile up pretty quickly.

Add in a pandemic with everyone working from home, cooking at home, and tackling those past-due projects, and trash output starts to multiply. During a time when many businesses closed down to stay safe, Bainbridge Disposal, an essential business, powered through to keep up with the demands of everyone's garbage.

"We could tell our residential routes increased significantly. When you are stuck at home, it's inevitable," said Heather Church, owner of Bainbridge Disposal. "My employees really stepped up. They showed up every day and worked hard to make everything run smoothly."

Church knows a little something about trash management. Her father, Don Palmer, who came from Suquamish, set down roots on Bainbridge with his wife and kids. He worked off-island at the machine shop in Boeing, a commute that soon became less and less appealing. When the opportunity to work on the island presented itself, Don and his then-wife Donna took on a new adventure, Bainbridge Disposal, which they founded in 1966. More than 50 years later, it's an island staple.

Church joined the family business in 1992 and took over in 2006 after her father passed away. During that time, she's seen it grow from four employees to 40. On staff are trash collectors, long-haul drivers, office staff, and transfer station attendants. In a job sector with high turnover, Bainbridge Disposal has found and kept many long-term employees.

"We have a devoted crew doing a job that many would never consider. Our employees commute to the island, show up every day on time, and are ready to pick up garbage and recyclables," said Church. "The crew is hardworking, reliable, and knows how to get the job done." Church said that many Bainbridge Disposal employees have been with the company for more than 10 years, which she considers invaluable. "I'm truly blessed to have all of them on our team."

Over the last 10 years, the disposal sector has grown and changed, creating some headaches along the way. Regulations and laws enacted to make the industry more environmentally friendly have also caused uncertainty about what is trash versus what is recycling.

"Garbage is complicated," said Church, "and this can create a lot of confusion for people. Many residents don't realize that recycling costs twice as much to get rid of, and because of this, it is super important to keep trash and recycling separate. When in doubt, throw it out."

Along with garbage, yard and recycling services—they were the first to offer recycling in Kitsap County—Bainbridge Disposal also provides demolition boxes for home remodels and commercial builds. They'll even pick up things like bikes, lawnmowers and appliances and have the only on-island septic tank pumping service.

Being one of only a handful of privately owned solid waste companies in Washington State, Bainbridge Disposal is uniquely positioned to grow with the community it serves and the needs of its customers. This also means that the company can think creatively about its future and consider ideas such as integrating electric trucks into its fleet. "I admit I am not an expert in this area," said Church, "but Bainbridge Island, solid waste, and clean trucks are perfect combinations for a model program. As long as the customers and the City of Bainbridge Island support having a local company, I'm here to listen and do what is logistically possible to bring innovative solid waste and recycle services to this growing community."



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LET THE SUN SHINE IN

ALIGNING
WITH **NATURE**
FOR A SHIFT
IN SEASON

Yes! Spring and summer, finally! We all feel it, we have been craving a change—more light, more energy. The blooms and buds of the spring season affirm that summer will soon warm us once again. This unfurling fern catches the feeling perfectly.

BY **BAJDA
WELTY**

In Chinese medicine, the dominant organ systems at play during this time of year are the liver and gallbladder, which feed and are fed by the “wood element.” The wood element is one of five described in Chinese medicine in addition to fire, earth, metal, and water. Everyone is a blend of all five elements, and to be truly healthy, they need to be in balance so that proper energy, “qi,” flows through our bodies and organ systems.

Embracing the wood element brings about a fresh start, a burst of upward energy. We see the bright green sprouts on the ground and the tender fresh, green growth on the tree branches and the flitting and flirting of courting birds. We see the intense creation, re-creation, and reproduction in the fields of new lambs and calves and hens suddenly laying copious amounts of eggs.



Put it into practice by getting outside and physically moving to awaken your sleepy tissues; challenging, and stretching your muscles, tendons and ligaments; breathing deeply and sweating. Organize cleanup in your yard or plant and weed the garden. Rhythmically walking, running, and hiking are perfect activities to feed your body and sooth the strong, uprising, restless energy of the wood element.

This time is rich with creative energy that we can tap into as well. Make plans to carry out your winter season dreams, make lists, and set in to action your intentions and resolutions.

Now is also the perfect opportunity to cleanse your body and let go of stagnant stores from winter. Adding dark leafy greens, fresh vegetables, lemon, asparagus,

nettle, and celery promotes internal spring cleaning. Letting go of processed foods, sugar, and decreasing caffeine and animal proteins for a short time can help physically and emotionally release what is being held unnecessarily—sweeping away old resentments or grudges and making way for a fresh outlook.

And if you still feel foggy, slow and in the winter cocoon, that’s just fine. Know that this is a tender, vulnerable time, and practice patience. Your inner knowing will take you in the direction of warmth and summer.

Bajda Welty MS, EAMP, LMP, practices acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine on Bainbridge Island.



GET DOWN AND DIRTY

Bainbridge is home to 40-plus miles of trails and 1,600 acres of park land, ranging from intimate gardens to grand forests, tiny neighborhood parks, historic landmarks, boardwalks and beaches, sports fields and tranquil spaces.

So, how are all these parks and trails maintained and managed? Besides year-round, paid crews at Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District (BIPR), volunteers pitch in with their hearts, hands—and knees, too. They're recruited through a partnership with BIPR and Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation (BIPF), an independent nonprofit organization.

Morgan Houk, manager of volunteer services at BIPR, said monthly work parties are regularly scheduled at Moritani Preserve and Red Pine Park as well as conservation and trails work parties at various locations.

KEEPING BAINBRIDGE PARKS BEAUTIFUL

BY KERRIE
HOUSTON
REIGHTLEY

PHOTOS COURTESY
BIPR AND BIPF

"Often the volunteers are more qualified than I am to do my job!" said Houk, who's working on a graduate certificate in natural resource management and, eventually, a master's degree.

At Moritani Preserve, just west of downtown Winslow, volunteer work includes removing invasive species, such as Scotch broom, blackberries and ivy on trees, along with restoring native species, Houk said.

"We're currently taking out the density of the Douglas firs planted there more than 40 years ago," she said. "They're starting to have disease, and we don't want them coming down in storms."

Houk said they work off a plan created by Mallore Weinheimer of Chickadee Forestry. Local forester and BIPR volunteer Mike Bonoff helps





implement Weinheimer's plan, she said.

Bonoff explained the simple equation foresters use to quantify a tree problem. "If you stand and look up at how much sunlight is coming

through the trees, and you look at the

forest floor and nothing is growing, that's not natural," he said.

At Red Pine Park, at Wood Avenue and Parfitt Way near Eagle Harbor, neighboring home and condo owners form the bulk of volunteers who maintain the gardens, landscape and fruit trees. The site once was the home of the late Junkoh Harui, owner of Bainbridge Gardens. Harui's father planted the trees days before Exclusion of Japanese Americans from the West Coast to prison camps during World War II.

Long-time volunteer Brooke Thompson, a retired teacher, said her late husband, Tom, was friends with Harui, and they "spoke garden" together. "Every day I'm out there, I say, 'This is for you, Tom.'"



Both Moritani and Red Pine volunteers meet on weekday mornings.

Conservation work parties care for meadows, beaches, open spaces and more. These groups work at rotating locations on the second Saturday of each month.

The longest-running volunteer work party tends to trails and

is overseen by BIPR Trails Coordinator Sean Smith-Sell. Volunteers meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at rotating locations. "It's not only maintenance," Houk said. "Sometimes they're building new trails, and those parties are a lot of fun!"

In addition to volunteers, BIPR offers some paid opportunities, including the Student Conservation Corps. After approval and orientation, 15- to 18-year-olds earn \$15.65 an hour for two-week summer sessions. Students work five hours a day, all over the island, learning about invasive weeds and how to remove them.

BIPR also partners with the Parks Foundation on the ParksCorps program. Local clubs, sports teams, youth groups and nonprofit organizations can earn \$10 an hour per volunteer, including parents and coaches.

"For the BHS cross country team, 60 volunteers worked at Pritchard Park for over two hours removing tree ivy and other species to raise money for travel expenses," Houk said. The high school rowing team earned money for uniforms, and Odyssey's 7th and 8th graders worked at Gideon Park and donated their earnings to a women's organization. "It's a double whammy of goodness," she said.

Thompson urged islanders to volunteer once or regularly. "Make new friends or weed alone," she said. "Be part of the web of life. Take time to notice the poetry of photosynthesis and respiration we share with plants, animals and even inanimate objects. Fit it into your timeframe to slow down."



For more information, visit biparks.org or biparksfoundation.org.



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Getting to Know **PIPER TUPPER**

Piper Tupper discovered sewing's charms at age 8. Learning alongside her mom provided precious time together in a large family, and soon young Piper was creating Barbie doll outfits. Her passion for being a sewist (an emerging term combining the words "sewer" and "artist") never waned. She had clerked at Esther's Fabrics for five of her 12 or so years on Bainbridge until last September, when she bought the iconic Winslow Way store that Esther Fox founded in 1959.

BY
**CONNIE
BYE**
PHOTOS
BY ANNIE
GRAEBNER

What drew you to this store?

I enjoy sewing, and I love fabric. I was in here so often it was kind of embarrassing. I decided I might as well get a job here.

What's your philosophy on making people feel welcome?

I think not judging, at all, any project they're doing or whatever level they're currently at. Nobody ever ought to feel shamed or that they're doing it wrong. I love it when people come up and say, "This might be a dumb question..." There are no dumb questions, especially with sewing.





Why does making things by hand appeal to people?

What's so fascinating about sewing is that everybody finds it interesting for different reasons. It's the challenge and the puzzle of it; it's taking something that's flat and making it into something that has shape, that has form, that has function. Fabric sitting on the counter looks pretty, but it's not doing anything. I can take that and make it into something I use. It's fun shopping, it's fun planning, it's fun doing it, it's satisfying wearing it. There's something gratifying every step of the way.

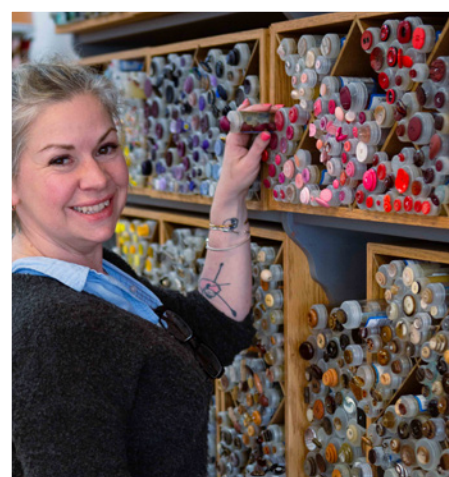


Why is Esther's almost a sacred tradition that's been passed down from owner to owner?

It's been here for so long. We had our 60-year anniversary just pre-COVID. Plus, not every community and town has a fabric store. If they do, often it's a quilt shop. We have quilting, for sure, but we have a wider variety than that. It's kind of unique.

What percentage of your customers come from elsewhere?

It's not crucial to know. We see familiar faces and know who our regular customers are. But it's also interesting and fun to work with (new) people. We can ask



what they're working on, where they're coming from. It's an opportunity for interesting conversation.

What are your favorite things about the shop?

One is the kids classes. Having them see that sewing is not scary, that you can make anything—and you're a sewist. Even if you only ever want to make little bean bags with lavender in them, it's OK if that makes you happy.

How much time do you spend sewing now that you own the store?

I come home and sew perhaps four hours a day, sometimes more.

What do you do when you're not working or sewing?

I like to play tennis; I play indoors, so it's year-round. And I'm a fair-weather kayaker. My family has an RV, and we like to go RVing (at full-service campgrounds). I take my tennis racket, my tennis shoes—and my sewing machine.





Guardians of the *Gardens*

BY **GEORGE SOLTES**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF **BLOEDEL RESERVE**
AND STAFF PORTRAITS BY **ANNIE GRAEBNER**



The Folks Behind the Flora at Bloedel Reserve

Joe Piecuch wants it understood that he is not a plant nerd.

Piecuch began his working life in the shipyards of Seattle, about as far from the natural world as he could be. When shipbuilding jobs became scarce in the 1980s, he began looking for other work and answered an ad for an entry level gardening position at the Bloedel Reserve.

"I had never heard of it," he recalled, "but at that point, I was pretty desperate for a job." He was hired but doubted the position





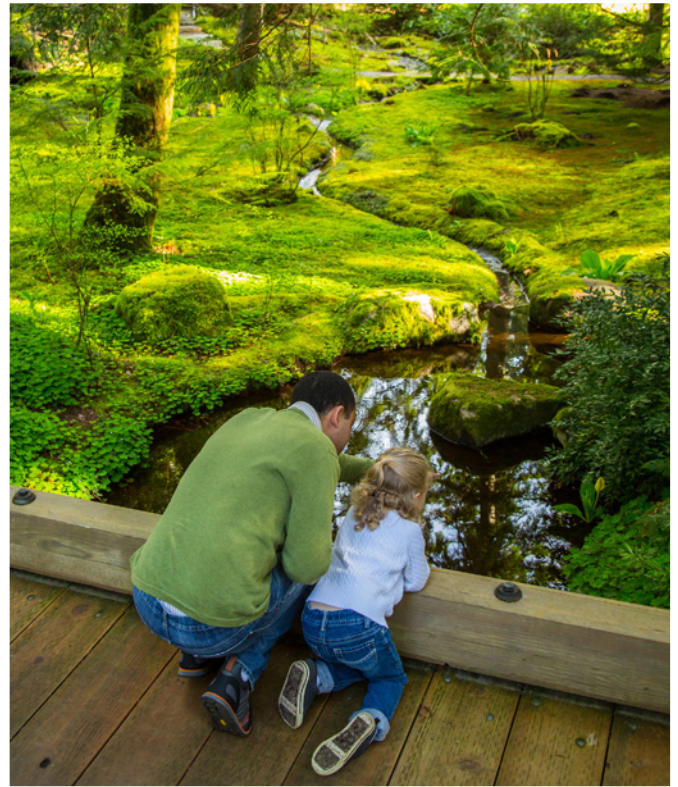
THE BOSS Joe Piecuch

would get him anywhere. "When I started here, I thought, 'Boy, there's really no room to go up.'"

Thirty-six years later, Piecuch is the director of facilities and interim director of grounds at Bloedel, overseeing the 15 paid staff and 60 volunteers who maintain the Reserve's 150 acres of lawns, woodlands, gardens, arbors and pools.

"I'm not a horticulturalist. I'm not a botanist," he said, "but I enjoy supporting the people who are those things and helping them do their jobs."

Don McKinney is one of them. If you ask McKinney what he does at Bloedel, you'll get a simple answer: "I'm the trail guy."



THE TRAIL GUY Don McKinney

The trails he has built and maintained since arriving in 1983 take visitors on a two-mile journey through shaded forests, fields of wildflowers and acres of green velvet moss. McKinney believes that it is important for people to walk out of the regular world onto his paths.

"We need places like this," he said. "We need to be outside and know that there are places without traffic jams or crowds of people."

McKinney has occasionally left the Reserve for other jobs during the nearly 40 years since he started, but it has always drawn him back. "It's like a second family," he said. "We're lucky we work here. We stop each other sometimes and say, 'Look at this! This is our office!'"

Compared to Piecuch and McKinney, Erin Hill is a relative newcomer. She arrived on Bainbridge Island with her young family in 2020 and took a short-term position with the grounds crew on the Buxton Bird Marsh. With degrees in plant biology and landscape architecture, Hill might have been considered overqualified for three months with a shovel, but the work was eye-opening.



THE ARCHITECT Erin Hill

"Every landscape architect should have to do this," she said. "Having an intimate appreciation for what it takes to execute this work has made me a better designer."

At the end of her temporary stint, knowing a good thing when they had it, Bloedel hired Hill as a landscape designer and project manager.

When she was tasked with sprucing up Bloedel's front entry, Hill realized that more than a superficial makeover was needed. COVID had a profound effect on operations at the Reserve. The number of visitors exploded as people sought a safe outdoor experience, peaking at 82,000 annual guests. At the same time, visitors were asked to purchase advance tickets for specific times to safely spread them out. When online timed ticketing turned out to be a popular change, the gatehouse no

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longer needed to be used for ticket sales, and its staid appearance felt out of sync with rest of the Reserve.

"The most insulting feedback we got was that it looked like the entrance to a suburban housing development," Hill said. After a year of planning and construction, the new Arrival Garden opened in March 2022. The landscaping, featuring a 1,700-square-foot plaza, is "more reflective of what your actual experience is on the grounds," she said.



THE GOURD GURU Philip Bloomquist

"Whether it's at the beginning or end of your visit, people want to linger and want somewhere to sit in the sun and chat."

While the pandemic was throwing a monkey wrench into Bloedel's operations, Philip Bloomquist had a very particular response. He decided to grow a 1,000-pound pumpkin.

Bloomquist oversees Bloedel's greenhouse, where he grows flowers for display, propagates interesting flora to enhance the diversity of the Reserve's collection and nurtures a variety of plants, shrubs and trees until they are ready to survive outdoors. One of his most colorful jobs is the autumn pumpkin and squash display.

The onset of COVID convinced Bloomquist that it was time to take things to the next level: "It was a weird year. Everything was in flux, and we decided to experiment and try to grow a giant pumpkin."

The campaign began with the acquisition of a seed bred over many years to enhance a single trait—enormity. Transforming that seed into a gourd with the mass of a grizzly bear was an eight-month journey from greenhouse



THE ARTIST Sean Peterson



THE TEAM

Back row: Dave Amos, Bob Braid, Alex Tracy, Erin Hill, Gunda Lunde, Philip Bloomquist, Ben Buchanan, Fen Vitello, Ken Little, Joe Picuch Front row: Andy Moss, Sean Peterson, Darren Strenge, Haley Wiggins Not pictured: Don McKinney, Tobin Tripp

to outdoor hoop house to enormous compost bed. In the end, Jeffrey the giant pumpkin (a staff member's child came up with the name) tipped the scales at 1,104 pounds. Bloomquist hopes that Jeffrey will soon have an even bigger cousin. "I'm gonna try it again this year," he said.

While Bloomquist is bringing new plants onto the Reserve, Sean Peterson keeps busy shepherding the old ones out. Two traits brought Peterson to the gardening life. The first is that he loves to create art. The second is that he hates to be inside. "My first job where I was indoors," he recalled, "I realized I really didn't want to be indoors."

Inspired by his mother and grandmother, both serious gardeners, he earned a horticultural studies degree and came to Bloedel just over 10 years ago. The skilled printmaker has found that the work satisfies both of his needs. "The garden space is like a huge canvas or block print," he said, "and we have all sorts of artists here working together. I feel all gardening is a type of art."

When not creating living art, Peterson manages the Reserve's new composting facility. Inspired by a grass roots (so to



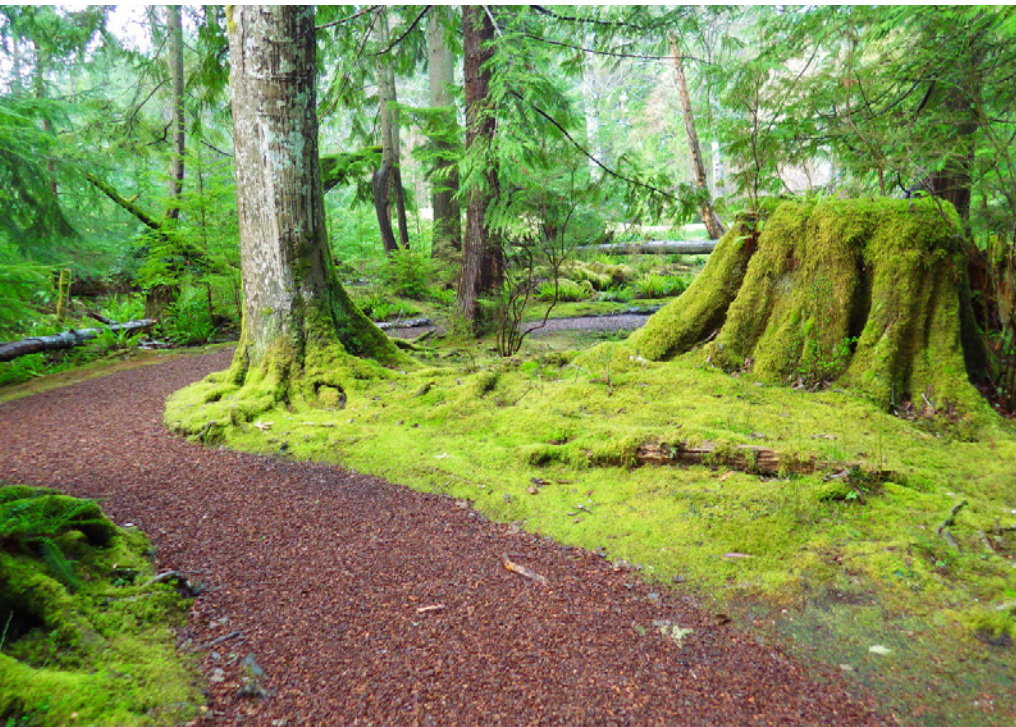
“
IT TAKES A LOT
OF WORK TO MAKE
THINGS LOOK NATURAL
AROUND HERE.
”

speak) effort by grounds staff to use less pesticide, the facility transforms garden waste into mulch, which is then recycled back onto the grounds where it naturally suppresses weeds and improves the drainage and water-holding capacity of the soil. Utilizing 16 temperature-controlled bins and forced-air technology to speed the process, the facility produced about 120 yards of usable mulch during the past year, enough to fill 60 full-size pickup trucks.

Those without access to a giant high-tech system can still experience the benefits of composting, Peterson said. "You can do this at home, whether it's one of those rotating barrels or just a little bin and a pitchfork."

Piecuch has a saying: "It takes a lot of work to make things look natural around here." Though the people behind the scenes at Bloedel come from different backgrounds and offer different skillsets, they share a common vision. They believe that there should be a place that exists just to make us feel good.

As Hill noted, "There's nothing more luxurious than to garden purely for aesthetics. You're not making food. You're not growing timber. You're just making a place that's beautiful, just for the sake of beauty. We don't have very many places like that in the world. I think Bainbridge Island is incredibly lucky to have a place like Bloedel."





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Better TOGETHER



HONORING HISTORY BY RECONCILING

NEW AND *Old*

BY ALLI SCHUCHMAN

PHOTOS BY DAVID W COHEN

Maureen “Mo” and Tom Daniels’ stories about the little beach cabin on Crystal Springs both begin with Anne Dennon. They agree that none of this would have been possible without her.

As a young girl, Dennon spent summers in the cabin. The property on which it sits was a wedding gift to her parents Dorthea and Maurice “Mose” Vining from Dorthea’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Pratt. The Pratts divided the beachfront property; they kept the southern part for their home and gave the land next door to the newlyweds. Traveling back and forth to the island from Seattle, Mose painstakingly built the original cabin by hand in 1932.

As an adult, Dennon and her husband, Jerry, took ownership of the properties. As Dennon puts it, “from Pratt to Vining to Dennon.”



The Daniels lived off Hidden Cove on the north end of the island, but had always wished for a place by the water. They didn't have any luck finding a property until late 2017, when they caught wind that the southern Pratt property, with its 1960s home, was on the market.

"We looked at it and I was like, oh my God," said Mo. The Daniels fell hopelessly in love. In an urgent push, they prepped, staged and listed their former home in four days and had it under contract within a week. Their hustle paid off. They closed on the Crystal Springs property in March

2018 and settled into their new home. Dennon, living in the beach cabin to the north, was their next-door neighbor.

The calm didn't last for long.

"Probably five months later," said Mo, "Anne comes out to me in the driveway and tells me she's going to sell her house, that it was becoming too much to handle. I was like, hold on, and literally ran back to our house to tell Tom."

Tom didn't hesitate. After living near the old cabin for a few months, the Daniels had come to cherish its charm and history and worried that another buyer might

simply choose to raze it. "Just give us a chance to buy it," he said. "We would love nothing more than to put these two properties back together." Thankfully, Dennon also wanted to see the property regain its original integrity. She offered it to the Daniels before it went on the market, telling Mo, "It was meant to be one piece."

"Rather than sell for the absolute highest price possible," Tom reflected, "Anne took a chance on us and gave us a wonderful opportunity."

After the sale, Dennon rented back the cabin from the Daniels for a year

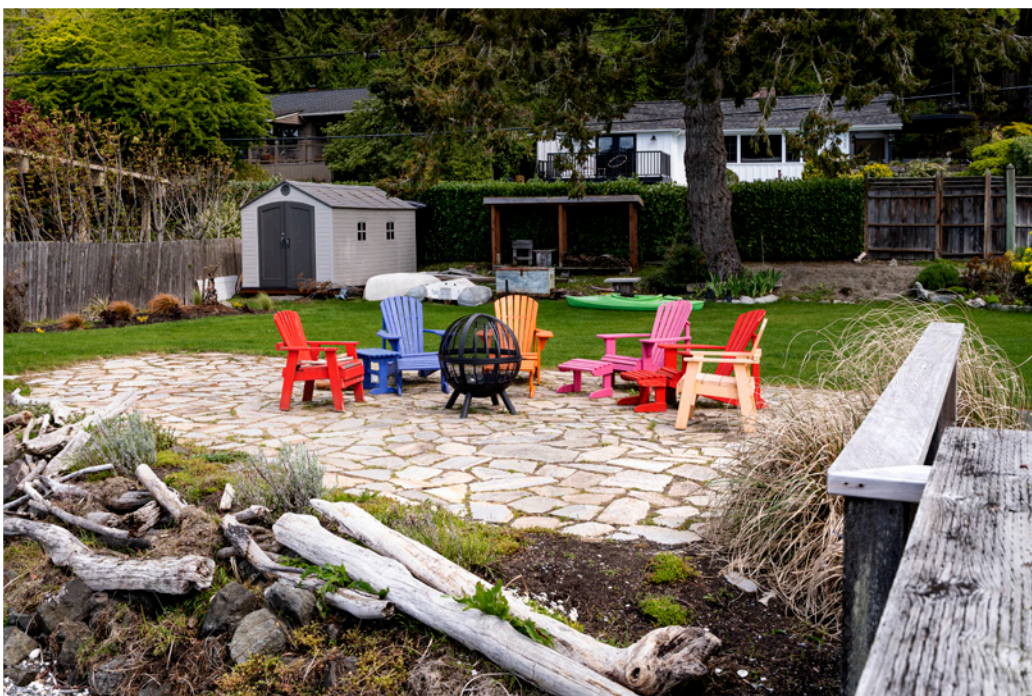


before moving to a cottage on her son's property at the end of 2019.

The years had been hard on the cabin. The Daniels had initially planned to simply fix it up but, with greater scrutiny, realized it needed more than a mere Band-Aid. "We started a whole renovation," said Mo. "We were trying to figure out how to preserve this house to retain its charm and not ruin it with just cheap updates—to honor the history of it." The skill and labor that had gone into the original construction of the cabin were never far from their minds.

"We brought everything we possibly could up to today's codes and standards while respecting the craftsmanship, quality and attention to detail as Maurice did," said Tom.

The Daniels kept as much of the original structure as feasible, including removing the cedar tongue-and-groove shiplap on the walls by hand, then painting and reinstalling it to lighten up the space. New beams were wrapped in cedar to match the siding. They gave the old brick fireplace a facelift, resurfacing it with stone that looked like it was gathered from the beach. For the mantle, they used a reclaimed piece of wood that they had carried around for a decade in the hope of finding a perfect spot for it. The original built-ins in the bedroom were preserved, as were the living room windows, including a picture window from the early 1900s that Mose had salvaged from the Frederick and Nelson department store building in downtown Seattle before it became Nordstrom.







“I wanted it to be fun and beachy and homey, but elegant, and a home that our kids can come back to.”

The cabin's 1,200 square-foot footprint stayed the same but was reconfigured to make it more livable. A bedroom was added, the bathrooms were remodeled, and the end of the house was opened up to make room for a big, beautiful kitchen with Rainier Honed Quartz counters, custom cabinetry, a granite sink, new appliances and a sweet coffee and wine bar. The Daniels vaulted the ceiling in the kitchen and covered it with tongue-and-groove cedar to match the living room. Off the kitchen, new French doors open out to a new deck. The cabin also needed updated plumbing and electrical as well as a new roof. All the interior doors are now solid-core wood with new black hardware. The exterior battenboard siding is painted bright white.

A team of local experts worked alongside the Daniels, including architect Charlie Wenzlau, Hauswerks, Day Road Electric and Swift Plumbing. Tom acted as general contractor and lists his contributions as grunt work, trim, painting, landscaping, hardware, detail work and writing checks.

One of the biggest upgrades, and one of Mo's favorite elements, is the engineered hard oak wide-plank flooring. "It's bomb-proof for being on the beach, plus you can sand this down three times over its lifetime," she said. Since the renovation took place while the COVID pandemic was in full swing and the supply and delivery chain was dramatically disrupted, the Daniels personally picked up the wood flooring from the warehouse in





“You try to think of everything, so it was really satisfying to see that someone loved it as much as we do.”

a U-Haul, built a ramp to the deck, then carried and stacked it inside, a task Mo won't soon forget.

After construction wrapped up, Mo decorated the cabin with a mix of old and new. “I wanted it to be fun and beachy and homey, but elegant, and a home that our kids can come back to,” she said. Besides visiting family, the Daniels use the cabin to house out-of-town guests and as an Airbnb.

Since putting the finishing touches on the property at the end of February, they have hosted a steady stream of Airbnb lodgers: three in March, three in April and more on the books. “Getting the first online review is something I'll never forget,” said Mo. “You try to think of everything, so it was really satisfying to see that someone loved it as much as we do.”

After the impromptu move and subsequent cabin renovation, Mo said the Daniels are done moving. “This is the start of a hopefully long, last chapter,” she said. “Anne told me, ‘I always thought they were going to have to carry me out of here,’ and I remember that because I say the same thing.

I joke and say they're going to have to put me out on the water and do a Viking sendoff like in Captain Fantastic.”

Several weeks ago, Dennon walked by the cabin and was able to see the whole renovation for the first time. “This is where she grew up for most of her life,” said Mo. Although the Daniels have remodeled homes before, Mo said “this was all different, this one was closest to my heart.” Tom concurred. “While working on the place—days, nights, weekends, with family, Maureen, our children, friends and contractors—the spirit and history was always front and center. I think knowing that family, friends, dogs and children are enjoying the same lifestyle provides some comfort, resolve and maybe even a smile on her face.”

In a recent email to Tom, Dennon wrote, “Your vision and the incredible labor involved created your wonderful new abode. You have done such a fabulous, thoughtful job! It has a personality all its own while harmonizing beautifully with some of its old bones. May the joy continue for years to come for the Daniels family.”

Well said, Anne.

THE MAKING OF A *Meaningful Life*

Follow your gut; it never fails you. If you want it, make it. Invent as you go. These are just some of the bits of wisdom that designer, seamstress, business owner and artisan **Mary Terry** shared on a sparkly day in her heritage cottage by the sea.

BY MELINDA BARNES

PHOTOS BY
DAVID W COHEN

Her thought-provoking storytelling, empathy, knowledge of history and events, and her storytellers' hands light up a room. She has enough creativity in her pinky finger to fill a home with stories, and then some. A worker and maker at heart, she has never known boredom.

To truly understand the vision of a creative designer, visit her home.

Stepping into Terry and her husband Frank Childers' 1919 cottage on Puget Sound evokes the early 20th century—but updated with quality comforts and classic paint on







walls adorned with curated art. For example, there's an original piece from their friend Cooper Edens' book, "If You're Afraid of the Dark, Remember the Night Rainbow." It begins, "If tomorrow morning the sky falls ... have clouds for breakfast. If you have butterflies in your stomach ... ask them into your heart." Like Terry herself, who is

no stranger to difficulty and loss, the little book helps readers face obstacles with a fresh perspective. Perhaps it is this ability that keeps Terry grabbing each new day for all it is worth.

The cottage, originally owned by Margaret Ward, is quintessential Bainbridge Island. A meandering road by the water leads to the front door, offering

sweeping views of Seattle's skyline and Mount Rainier, with seagulls calling over rippled tidelands and oyster beds. The cottage sits in a timeless landscape that blooms throughout the seasons.

"Margaret (Ward) copied all the same botanicals that William Morris planted at his home in England. It's just incredible," Terry said, as she identified



Terry in her sewing studio. This quaint detached cottage holds thousands of reams of fabric in every style and color.

a sunny herbaceous groundcover as Marsh Mallow.

Terry traces her just-do-it personality to growing up the second of seven siblings in a Midwest family. As a child, she learned to sew in her grandma's lap, holding the fabric tight to the edge of the table while protecting her small fingers. She watched her grandmother make all the trappings of a home come to life: threading the needle, watching the seams spin out and transforming sheets of fabric into dresses, pillowcases, curtains and more.

"I always had someone close to me, physically close, that I could ask, 'How

The attached vintage guest studio is kept in tip-top shape for Terry's daughters and grandchildren to visit. The cozy built-in bed is made with covers and pillows that Terry sewed.



A living room made for dreaming the day away, with throw blankets and nostalgic art aplenty.



do you do this?’ And I had someone who would show me,” she said.

Terry’s first paid job, at age 10, was fashioning miniskirts out of her client’s old, long wool skirts—folding, pleating, pinning, hemming, and repurposing the outdated garments. When she received payment for her work, a new world opened, as she discovered the power to make her life just as she wanted it. These are powerful tools for any person to have at their disposal, but especially so for a bright young person with a drive to see the world.

Terry carried her sewing machine wherever she went, sewing her sorority sisters’ clothes while her roommate blasted tunes from a radio. Never far from friends or fun, she paid her way through every stage of life by sewing what people needed. She learned how to pivot and create anything, from glorious bolts of fine silk to the remnants after a project was completed. Both the finery and the scraps can yield admirable results. Terry loves the tangible nature of making something where nothing was before.

As a young adult in college, Terry studied history and political science. She then met Childers, a creative, driven man who quickly caught her heart. Parents to three strong-willed, successful daughters, one deceased, they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this June.

Childers worked his way through Nordstrom’s expansion while Terry raised their children and continued taking clients for custom projects. When separation between work and home



The surrounding seascape changes with the weather. Terry pauses for reflection as dusk sets in.

became a necessity, she moved her shop to Winslow. In 1991, she purchased Esther’s Fabrics, then after its sale in 2006, she and her best friend, Terri Bryant, bought Dana’s Showhouse and subsequently, Danger. In 2012, they opened Furnish Bainbridge. They approached all three shops with a clarity of purpose: Build and make legacy products and do away with the ubiquitous culture of farming everything out overseas while lowering standards and raising prices.

Terry and Bryant invested in lasting solutions, such as locally milled wood and handsewn slipcovers that can be rewashed, and honored hard work through adherence to fair prices. Sustainable, locally sourced solutions and gorgeous fabrics from the industry’s biggest designers created a busy and earth-friendly business for the pair.

They decided to sell the businesses last year and are excited to travel and focus on their own homes and families. Terry still serves as the go-to designer and seamstress for all custom fabric work at Dana’s and Furnish Bainbridge. Despite being “retired,” she stays busy with her textile and design work and stays in close contact with Kim Shrout, the new owner at Furnish Bainbridge.

Designing a well-made space can be life changing. Terry has grown close to her clients through the inevitable story-sharing that comes with entering homes and solving problems. Her art form is in understanding the intersection of personality and environment. She arrives with solutions and a can-do attitude. Like the sea outside her cottage, Terry speaks the language of line and form and color. More than sewing fabric and designing interiors, her gift is creating homes that flow and breathe.

Just like the timeless pieces Terry has created since she apprenticed on her grandma’s lap, her life has been an exercise in growing, inventing and making—and living beautifully while stitching it all together.



Terry’s colorful kitchen is a chef’s dream for creating beach-to-table fare from the surrounding garden and oyster beds.

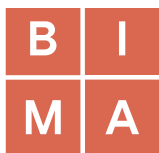


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Kvetch Me

BY ALLISON SCHUCHMAN

if You Can



Get off my lawn! Comedian and island treasure (not in the formal, award-winning sense but in the always participating, always making us laugh, now that's a mensch sense) Dan Rosenberg took a swipe at a common Frog Rock refrain that's left most of us feeling like a sheepish poser at one time or another.

You've been here HOW long? There are a lot of things unique to Bainbridge Island, and most make it a great place, but can we stop comparing ourselves to each other based on how long we've lived here? If you've been here 15 years, anyone who came after you is somehow not a real islander? Unless you ask someone that's been here 20 years ... or 30, or 50 ... I've even heard someone say, "if you don't remember the island before the bridge, you're not a real islander." Really? To have a memory of no bridge, you'd have to have arrived before 1950 ... and that's not so long ago if you ask a member of the Suquamish tribe. I am sure that after the first Europeans came to the Agate Pass in 1792, they looked down their noses at the Europeans that followed in 1794. For the last 12 years, seven months and two weeks, I've called Bainbridge home. As long as you've been here a day longer than me, I'm ok being the newbie.

Haven't met Rosenberg yet? You should. In addition to being a master of comedic kvetch, he's a writer, radio host and emcee, who has performed comedy for over three decades. He

Bainbridge *by* THE NUMBERS

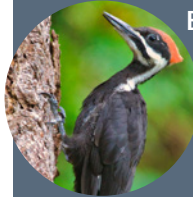


has appeared at the Laugh Factory and the Improv and performed at the Just for Laughs festival in Montreal, as well as at comedy festivals all over the place. He has hosted radio shows for CBS Radio in Los Angeles and Seattle and for National Lampoon Radio on SiriusXM. He is the author of "The Book on Hosting: How Not to Suck as an Emcee" and has held workshops nationwide to help comedians become better masters of ceremonies. His debut comedy album (recorded here at BPA) "Dan Rosenberg: Overexposed," debuted at number one on the Amazon comedy charts in December 2020, and his comedy special, "Dan Rosenberg: Overexposed," is available on Amazon Prime Video and on YouTube. Rosenberg is currently developing a sitcom, "It's A Lot."

He's a lot. And that's just the way we like him.

For many tourists and Seattle residents, Bainbridge Island is "the ultimate day trip," says Mickey Molnaire, director of member and visitor services at the

BY
CONNIE
BYE



Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce. Visitors spend dollars at shops and restaurants and on sales and lodging taxes, helping support the local economy. Before COVID, the island routinely welcomed people from dozens of countries, all the states and most Canadian provinces each year. Now, with more than **300 Alaska cruises scheduled for 2022**—the most ever—Molnaire predicts our island will see a visitor rebound after two pandemic seasons.

Annual average visitors to Bainbridge, pre-COVID:
At least **120,000***

**Estimates are based solely on numbers of people who stop by the chamber's welcome booth at the ferry terminal and its office on Winslow Way. So, Molnaire says, far more people visit Bainbridge annually.*



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THE ART OF LUNCH

BIMA Bistro Combines Northwest Art with Local Foods and a Cultural Living Room Vibe

Every great art museum has one. There's the Restaurant du Musée d'Orsay in Paris. The Modern in New York. And on Bainbridge Island, art lovers and visitors have discovered the **BIMA Bistro**.

Stephanie Knutson, the Bistro manager, has been at the eatery almost since it opened. "The Bistro is in a part of the museum that was slated to be an open space," she said. "But Cynthia Sears, one of BIMA's founders, thought it would make a great place to gather."

That's exactly what it has become. The Bistro serves lunch—and only lunch—until 4 p.m. and guests are

invited to linger as late as 5 p.m. to foster long conversations about the art that they've just seen or how tasty that Turkey Meatball Sandwich was. It joins perennial menu favorites, such as Toasted Cheese and Tomato Soup and Croque Monsieur.

Pre-pandemic, the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art offered a special Tuesday dinner and movie. Diners enjoyed a Bistro

dinner, followed by a themed and curated movie in the auditorium.

"But COVID meant we couldn't dine inside, so we switched to Tuesday night takeout dinners to help keep the Bistro going. Now we prepare 60 dinners a week," Knutson said. "Our guests can have a Bistro dinner and a movie in the comfort of their own homes."

What's ahead for the Bistro as BIMA approaches its ninth anniversary? "I'd like to bring in some cultural foodways projects, where we could get guest chefs involved," Knutson said, "something that would be interesting and relevant to the region."

Just like the museum itself.

 **BIMA Bistro**
550 Winslow Way East



NOW PLAYING AT THE PAVILION A VIETNAMESE DELI

WITH A FOCUS ON FRESHNESS AND FLAVOR

If you haven't spent much time at the Pavilion the last couple of pandemic years, you'll be forgiven if you didn't know that a Vietnamese restaurant opened there this past January.

Wait. What?

It's true. **The Green Pot Deli** serves pho, banh mi, spring rolls, egg rolls, bun salad bowls and other traditional Vietnamese dishes.

Van Tran, who runs the Green Pot Deli with her husband, Cuong Nguyen, says the most important aspect of their new restaurant is freshness. "Everything we make is served that day," she said. "We cook the pho in the morning, let it simmer and serve it in one day. I love to cook pho. I put my soul into it."

"Everything else in the restaurant is prepped in the morning so we can serve it fresh and fast," she said. "We understand a lot of people work and have to come back to the office within a certain amount of time, and we try our best to serve the food quickly so people can get back to work."

Meanwhile, if you aren't in a hurry, Green Pot Deli has a counter and tables where you can ponder that eternal question: *How do they make their beef dumplings so darn delicious?*

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JOIN THE CLUB

Sweet Dahlia's Dinner Club is Like the Delicious Dinners From Your Mom's Kitchen (Only Now They're Coming From Yours)

When **Sweet Dahlia** started out in 2016, everything was sweet. The young company sold baked goods, such as cookies, scones, doughnuts and fritters, to customers like Washington State Ferries, Fred Meyer and CHI Franciscan Health.

And then COVID hit. "All of our wholesale business just fell out," said **Stacey Wadkins**, who owns Sweet Dahlia with her partner, **Christopher Wynn**. "Orders that used to come in every day just stopped." Sweet Dahlia closed for six weeks, putting its 11 employees out of work.

Luckily, the company had something else on the menu that customers love—its dinners. "We call it 'Dinner Club,'" Wadkins said. The idea is as simple as it is delicious: Each week, Sweet Dahlia offers a homemade dinner that a busy family can have on the table and be enjoying in 30 minutes or less.



Meals include macaroni and cheese, meatloaf and other comfort foods; tamales, osso buco and other international dishes, and some French classics, such as duck confit and beef bourguignon, in a nod to Wynn's background and training as a chef. His résumé includes several years as the pastry chef for a large ski resort in Lake Tahoe and a stint of almost 10 years as the sous chef for a top catering company in the San Francisco Bay Area, Paula LeDuc.

Despite the name, there's nothing to join to be a member of the Dinner Club, no dues or subscriptions. But members do get an important benefit—a text message that notifies them about that week's meal.

"As a member, our texting line is open to you," Wadkins said. "That means you can order via text, ask questions about upcoming meals and communicate with us, all through text messaging."

Sweet Dahlia made early use of texting because of the connection it creates with customers, she said. "It lets us have a dialogue with them."

Wadkins, who oversees the business side of things at Sweet Dahlia, is also a certified counselor and board certified in biofeedback. She has treated hundreds of people using biofeedback and psychophysiological techniques and is specialized in peak performance training and stress management.



"Believe me," she laughed, "I put those skills to use running, growing and expanding the bakery while raising our children."

Wadkins said Dinner Club works for a variety of people for a lot of different reasons. "When we first started doing it, our customers were mainly mothers who were on their way between dance class and the 50 other things that their kids are doing. And they wanted to feel good about feeding their kids a healthy dinner. They wanted to sit down and eat dinner together."

As word spread, Dinner Club also began to appeal to single people who didn't want to cook for just themselves. "We have also had lots of people who'd lost a spouse, and they were used to cooking for two, or maybe the other person was the one who cooked," Wadkins said. "Dinner Club provided a warm and friendly environment for all these people."

And, because the idea behind Dinner Club is to make delicious meals simple for anyone, Sweet Dahlia has even come up with a way to make clean-up fast and easy. "Everything goes on a piece of parchment paper," Wadkins explained. "So, you just pull (the meal) out of the box, put it on a sheet pan and stick it in the oven. Usually everything's less than 20 minutes to cook. And then when you're done, you pull it out, you put it on your plate and toss the parchment paper. Just like that, you have your dinner, which is hot out of the oven."

But Sweet Dahlia is not about to lose sight of what got the business going in the first place. "We have 13 different doughnuts, from maple bars with bacon to apple fritters," she said. "Plus, sandwiches, salads, soups and quiche for lunch and cookies and other treats for anytime."

Thinking back to the uncertain days of the pandemic, Wadkins is philosophical. "Sweet Dahlia is proof that being sweet can help you get through anything."



Sweet Dahlia Baking

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BAINBRIDGE ISLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM *presents*

Our Community: Past to Present

This dynamic new primary exhibit located in the 1908 schoolhouse building features 13 Island communities of people who live, work, and play on Bainbridge Island.

The Museum is free to the public. For operating hours and more information head to bainbridgehistory.org.



Picker's card, 1957



215 Ericksen Ave NE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

summer calendar

1. Our Community: Past to Present

A dynamic new primary exhibit at the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum located in the historic 1908 schoolhouse building. Our Community: Past to Present illuminates diverse, beloved, and previously untold stories about Bainbridge Island and the communities of people who live, work and play here.

The inaugural exhibit features 13 Island communities: African American, Business, Faith, Food, Filipino American, Forestry, Indipino, Japanese American, Pride, Maritime Transportation, Military, Pickleball, and Suquamish. Through the exhibit you can explore authentic cultural materials, photos, oral and video recordings and more.

The exhibit is open to the public during museum operating hours, **Wednesday-Sunday 10am-4pm.** bainbridgehistory.org

2. Farmers Market

The Bainbridge Island Farmers Market brings together dozens of local vendors, including farmers, food vendors and crafters with artisan-made goods – all for your shopping enjoyment. Enjoy live music, purchase local produce and grab lunch. Visit the market from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Saturdays through November,** Town Square at City Hall.

bainbridgeislandfarmersmarket.com

3. Moonlight Market

Support regional artists, small businesses, curators, makers, nonprofits and local organizations during these monthly community events at Town Square. Live music provides a backdrop as you shop, stroll and enjoy food and libations from 5-9 p.m. on **June 3, July 1 and August 5.** moonlight-market.com

4. First Friday Art Walks

On the first Friday of every month, head to local galleries, studios, museums, shops and restaurants that showcase the creative talent at the heart of our art scene. It's all part of Bainbridge Island's Art Walk. Upcoming Art Walks are set for 6-8 p.m. on **June 3, July 1 and August 5.** bainbridgedowntown.org



8



2

7. Grand Old 4th of July

The Grand Old 4th brings folks together for a day of friends, food and fun. Enjoy a pancake breakfast, family fun run, hometown parade, street fair, live music, food, beer garden, kids' activities and more. bainbridgechamber.com



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10

8. Sounds of Summer Outdoor Concerts

Pack up a picnic, meet up with friends, kick back, dance, relax and simply enjoy the sounds of summer. This free concert series, open to all ages, is from 6-9 p.m.

Wednesdays at Battle Point Park Observatory Hill. Light concessions are available on-site.

July 6 - Eagle Eyes

July 13 - John Brothers Piano Company is sed

July 20 - Beat Frequency

July 27 - St. Paul de Vence

August 3 - LeRoy Bell

August 17 - Ian McFeron

August 24 - Nearly Dan

August 31 - Backstreet Jellyroll

biparks.org

5. Rotary Auction & Rummage Sale

Bargain-lovers, get ready! After two years of scaled-down, online-only sales, the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island's Auction & Rummage Sale returns July 2 to Woodward Middle School. As in years past, islanders can donate no-longer-needed items in late June, and hundreds of volunteers will sort, tag and turn them into dollars to be used throughout the community.

Donation drop-off:

8 a.m.-8 p.m., June 25-29

Preview Night: 5-8 p.m., July 1

Sale Day: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., July 2

bainbridgerotaryauction.org

6. July 3rd Street Dance & BBQ

Get your Independence Day celebration started off right with the Street Dance. Islanders come together on Winslow Way to party with live music, dancing, vendors, food and a beer garden.

bainbridgechamber.com

9. Summer Studio Tour

Celebrate the beauty and craftsmanship of local, handmade art at this free, self-guided tour. The event, **August 12-14**, takes you on a journey around Bainbridge Island's artistic studios. You'll be treated to a variety of works in progress, see raw materials and tools, have a chance to meet and talk with artists – and maybe find some inspiration of your own. bistudiotour.com

10. Movies in the Park

Enjoy a movie under the stars Friday nights in August, when a favorite movie will play on an extra-large, inflatable screen at the Observatory Bowl at Battle Point Park. Movies start 30 minutes after sunset. Admission is free, and films are suitable for all ages. Concessions and popcorn will be available.

August 5 - Luca

August 12 - Raiders of the Lost Ark

August 19 - Jurassic Park

August 26 - Cruella

biparks.org



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Open Tuesday–Sunday | Timed tickets are required for admission | bloedelreserve.org

Only on Bainbridge



"Back in the day in 1979 there were only 5,000 people living on the island with only one stop light," recalled Melinda Callaham, who has lived on Bainbridge for 43 years. She is a registered nurse who provides homecare for seniors. She loves living here.

"Everyone knew everybody. We would have huge bonfires with the police chief, fire department, neighbors and friends, enjoying everyone's company. We had places to dance, a bowling alley to gather," she said. "Traveling on the ferry boat was a huge social hour. Sundays the stores were closed, but there was always a barbecue to go to or planned gatherings at the beach or parks." She's seen a lot.

Callaham is also an avid photographer who loves to snap birds. Often, after playing table tennis at the senior center, she powerwalks along the Bainbridge Island waterfront. On a recent outing, she captured this image.

"I noticed a blue heron under the dock looking for food," she said. "I've never been that close to this magnificent bird; it's one of my favorites."

Focused on the heron, Callaham tuned out everything around her and quietly observed for several minutes. "All of a sudden this dog came up behind me and jumped on my butt," she said. "I screamed. If I was one foot closer to the edge of the dock, I would have fallen in." Upon regaining her bearings, Callaham recounted what happened next: Moving on after the jubilant assault, the canine culprit rejoined the queue behind his owner (festooned in an old racoon hat), as well as, wait for it ... a cat, also along for the stroll.

Now if only we had a picture of that.

Call for volunteers!

for this year's



3rd of July 2022

This celebrated Bainbridge event happens with a dedicated group of volunteers - and **we need help!**

Can you lend a hand?
We'd love help with things like:

- Helping people / customer service
- Set up & take down
- Serving beer & wine (must be over 21)
- Green team
- Bringing joy to attendees!



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Fill out our online
volunteer form

MAKE IT A GREAT NIGHT!

WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

COMING 2023

THE BUXTON CENTER FOR BAINBRIDGE PERFORMING ARTS

After 66 years of serving as a cornerstone of the arts on the Island, Bainbridge Performing Arts has launched a capital campaign for a major renovation of the 1992 building, soon to be named "The Buxton Center for Bainbridge Performing Arts" in honor of our dear friend and colleague, Frank Buxton.

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