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WINTER ISSUE 2022

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e have a running joke around our house that my husband's worst personality trait is optimism. And truth be told, it does sometimes get out of hand. His sunny personality complements the gusto with which he participates in every possible way. Where any normal person would cover at the idea of strapping legs with a coworker for a three-legged race, he'd be the first in line. An invitation to karaoke? Great! Disco costume party, you say? Even better.

As endearing as it can be, at times it's been in sharp contrast to my best trait, cutting sarcasm. And eyerolls.

But after 17 years together, darn it if it isn't wearing off on me a bit. Somewhere deep inside my cold black heart, a sesame seed of sincerity and cheerfulness has taken root. For example...I bought the whole family matching llama Channukah pajamas. I love the whole Grand Old Fourth celebration bonanza. First Friday Art Walks along with the new Moonlight Market are on repeat on the family calendar. I even bought the dogs Seahawks jerseys and myself a Kraken hoodie. I use emojis.

It's as if the scratchy voice inside my head that has, for 51 years, routinely wondered "have you no shame" has suddenly discovered that it's actually more fun to have fun. Being excited is cute. Showing up with an open heart is cool. Singing along isn't just entertaining, it's powerful. It's quite literally the release of shame and the newfound understanding that there are worse things in life than being earnest.

In this issue we see loads of people who got this concept earlier than I did. Seniors who still get together to ski, Island Volunteer Caregivers who make it a practice to help out for no better reason than it feels good, folks who make it their nonprofit's work to train dogs to be of comfort and service. We're surrounded. As 2022 winds to a close, may we all wrap ourselves in the good and the joyous and set our sights on making next year, our best yet.



Allison

Allison Schuchman
Editor in Chief

PUBLISHER

Natalie Rodriguez
pnwbainbridge@gmail.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Allison Schuchman

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Connie Bye
George Soltes

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Gisela Swift

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Mark Swift

WRITERS
Christy Carely, Jeff Fraga, Avery Gray,
Isabelle Haines, Chantelle Lusbrink, Audrey Nelson,
Kerrie Houston Reightley, Dinah Satterwhite,
Janie Walton, Bajda Welty

PHOTOGRAPHERS
David W. Cohen, Annie Graebner,
Colleen Parker, Dinah Satterwhite

CONTACT
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Instagram @pnwbainbridge
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publisher's corner



Growing up, my big Latin family always came together over food, especially during the holidays. It gave us a reason to renew traditions and celebrate togetherness. Aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family all brought food to share and stories to tell. I remember hearing jokes and bursts of laughter amid the aromas of homemade tortillas, green chili and simmering beans. Food and family collided into one hot beautiful mess.

My mother spent hours in the kitchen baking and decorating her famous holiday sugar cookies. I still recall the taste of the cookie dough and the whisks of sweet frosting. I couldn't wait to peek at the little candy-cane and reindeer-shaped cookies fresh from the oven.

Fast forward to today. I've carried this tradition forward with my family, and every holiday season I look forward to making food and treats. Which is why I want to share my mother's sugar cookie recipe with you (go to page 29). I hope that it will bring your family together, just as it does mine.

Happy Holidays!

Natalie

Natalie Rodriguez
Publisher



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Photography: Art Grice

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ABOUT THE COVER

Island photographer Coleen Parker caught this brilliant blue Stellar's jay surveying its territory from a tree in her Baker Hill garden on one of Bainbridge's rare snowy days. She describes the daily visitors to her feeders as "intelligent, vocal and perennially entertaining."

| EPILOGUE |

Maybe Bainbridge’s slogan should be Keep the Party Going.

After the Bainbridge Creative District (BCD) launch on July 3, the community came together to celebrate Bridge Festival 2022 on September 10 at Waterfront Park. The BCD executive committee took three months to plan the event, which included music, performances and speeches from a diverse array of talents and perspectives. In addition to the entertainment, attendees got to visit with supporting partners at their booths, take part in a community arts project and enjoy great food and drink.



The breadth of the festival demonstrated that our Creative District reaches beyond Winslow Way to the whole of Bainbridge Island, all of Kitsap County and Seattle. Planning for Bridge Festival 2023 is already underway. It will be an even bigger event, with weeklong activities culminating in a downtown festival.

Many thanks to Arts & Humanities Bainbridge’s Executive Director Inez Maubane Jones for the recap!

Shortly before going to press, we received the sad news that Spunky the cat had passed away. Spunky and owner Perry Ann Porter-Brown were profiled in the fall issue (Here and Meow, p. 22). The indomitable tabby brought joy to every situation, even ones that would get most cats’ backs up. “At the vet, she would greet everyone and purr instantly,” Porter-Brown recalled. “They couldn’t hear her heart because she purred so loud.”

We’re so glad we got the chance to know Spunky. We’ll listen for her happy rumble up in the clouds.



Isabelle Haines

Isabelle Haines grew up on Bainbridge Island. After graduating from BHS in 2017, she spent a year living in France and then attended Tulane University in New Orleans, where she studied math and English. She graduated in May 2022 and has since happily returned to the Pacific Northwest. Currently, she lives in Seattle and works at an education nonprofit. In her free time, Isabelle loves to read, write, hike, swim, rollerblade and bake pies.



Janie Walton

Janie Walton has been a permanent resident of Bainbridge Island since 1976. As a child, she was part of the summer people “brat pack” of Rolling Bay beach. She used her English degree from the University of Portland to write marketing copy for the family business, and her four children kept her involved with the Bainbridge schools for 25 years. (That’s a lot of thank yous and excuses to write...) She lives on the corner of Goat Hollow and Chicken Hill Road in Seabold and enjoys travel, sewing, telling stories, singing and visiting her grandchildren.



Kerrie Houston Reightley

Kerrie Houston Reightley, a 33-year resident of Bainbridge Island, is a freelance writer, with work in The New York Times’ Modern Love and Parenting sections, Huffington Post, Oprah.com and AFAR magazine. Her education includes a B.A. in journalism and political science. Spanning decades, she has represented Bainbridge Island on numerous United States Tennis Association teams, several of which won championship titles. In this issue, Reightley reintroduces the island to Emiliana Prado and her Barrecor studio. Read more of her work at KerrieHoustonReightley.com.





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Young Adventurers Discover Bainbridge



Kids Discovery Museum has found a new way for children to dig down, look around and learn: Explore Bainbridge activity books.

The latest, the Walkable Winslow Edition, offers adventures within walking distance of the ferry and KiDiMu.

The books—two so far—sprang from brainstorming ways to fulfill KiDiMu’s mission during the pandemic closures. The program launched over spring break 2021, said Executive Director Corinne Wolfe. “Lots of local families wanted something adventurous they could do right here.”

And when Marshall Suites asked for something for hotel rooms, KiDiMu created Explore Bainbridge Boxes, with activities such as building a ferry from recycled materials. “Visitors could still have the KiDiMu experience outside our four walls,” said Director of Community Engagement and Outreach Kaitlin Chester.

The first book uses STEM activities to explore historic and favorite places. The second book highlights Winslow sites, local history and more. The staff is discussing a third version.

The intent is to help Bainbridge kids and visitors alike discover “our amazing island,” Wolfe said.

Chester and Director of Education Bernice Cavalluzzi developed the books. “It is one of my favorite things we’ve ever done,” Chester said.

The target audience is preschool to early grade school. “But it really extends to all ages,” Wolfe said. “Maybe an older child can read (the book) to a younger child.”

To order the \$20 books, go to kidimu.org/store.

BY
CONNIE
BYE



STILL HEADING DOWNHILL

BY CONNIE BYE

PHOTOS COURTESY ANCIENT SKIERS

Older Skiers Reunite on the Slopes

PNW Ancient Skiers Association formed in the 1980s, when people in the ski industry were nearing retirement and wanted to keep track of friends. The club scheduled its 38th annual reunion trip for this January at Sun Valley, Idaho, where for the first time since COVID hit, there will be a full slate of outdoor and indoor activities.

"We'll probably bring more than 300 people this time," said Secretary Nita Burks, a board member along with her husband, President Ty Anderson, who both live on Bainbridge. Perks in Sun Valley include discounted lift tickets, banquets, get-togethers, a NASTAR ski race and more.

"A lot of skiers come for the ambience," Anderson said. "And Sun Valley is just a great place to ski."

Prospective members must be sponsored by a current member; most have some connection to the ski industry. There's a one-time, \$125 membership fee.

Current members range from 55, the minimum age to join, into their 90s, Burks said.

Ancient Skiers has about 790 memberships—that's more than 1,300 individuals. Of those, 19 people live on Bainbridge, three in Poulsbo and two in Suquamish, Burks said.

Some members have retired from the Northwest to Sun Valley, in part to enjoy some of the well-maintained, easier runs, Burks said.

"They might be skiing slower, they might be on the easier slopes," she said, "but they're still out there."





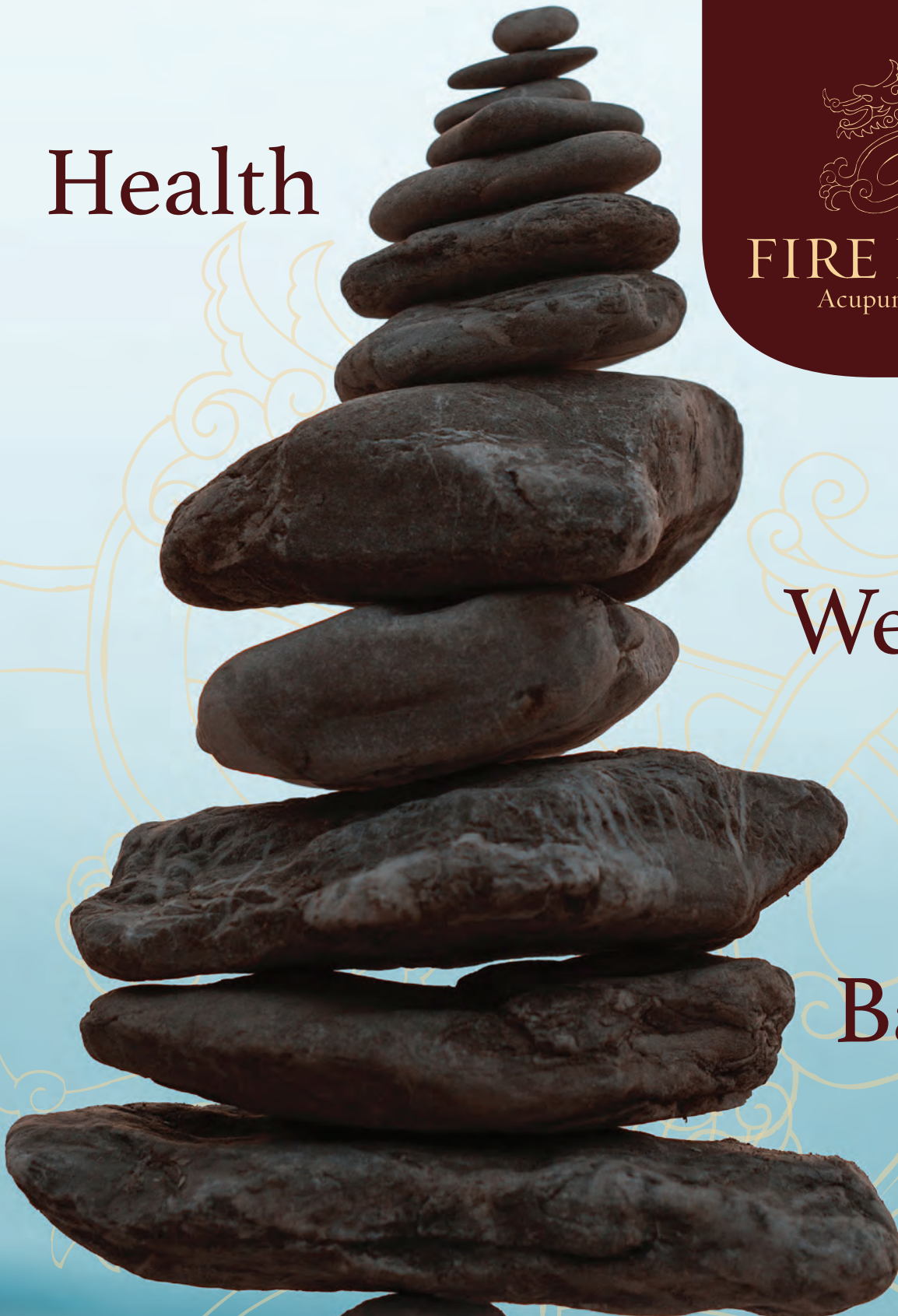
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FEEL THE BURN

Banning books is spreading like wildfire across America. On Bainbridge Island, educators at Hyla upper school are taking a different approach. They are encouraging their students to read those same forbidden books and to examine the critical ideas commonly found in the banned texts.

BY AVERY GRAY

Banning books in America dates back to at least 1960, when a teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was fired for assigning her students the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger. The book was flagged by district employees for offensive language and explicit sexual content and was deemed unsuited for the age group. Though it was the first, it was far from the last time a book would be challenged. The nonprofit newspaper "Education Week" lists other topics that often lead to books being banned, including LGBTQIA+, sex and sexuality, critical race theory and gender.

While America is dealing with a rise in censorship, Hyla is working to open its students' minds to a world of new perspectives and ideas. The Banned Book Club idea began as an English assignment for 10th and 11th grade students. Their job was to pick a novel that had recently been banned or challenged, then discuss it in small groups. Students had a wide range of choices, including "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien, "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston, "Slaughterhouse-Five" by Kurt Vonnegut, and "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. The assignment allowed students to read about and

discuss the material with others, who brought their own diverse outlooks and experiences to the table. Students are eager to see if the book club will continue now that there is a new English teacher at the school.

One of the students who participated in the assignment, but who wishes to stay anonymous, had only positive thoughts on the project. "The most notable thing from this book club was simply the ability to analyze a book through so many different perspectives," the student said. Encouraging students to view the world through other people's lenses directly lines up with Hyla's curriculum, the student added, "which works to go against the grain, and analyze things from new perspectives."

Kathy Ellison, Bainbridge High School librarian, expressed why she thinks books are banned in the first place. "The initial motivation is a desire to protect kids, but it turns into a need to control what all kids can access," she said. The only books that should be banned? "Books that promote hate," she added.

The Hyla student also had thoughts on what motivates book banning. "It comes from a place of fear. Fear of differences and of the unknown, fear that should not be projected onto young people in schools. We as students deserve access to a diverse collection of literature that will challenge our beliefs and our intellects."

As censorship, in the form of book banning, remains a troubling issue in many parts of America, on Bainbridge our schools and educators are working to give students a rich and diverse view of the world and the many experiences that it encompasses.



Young Writers Series

Avery Gray is currently a senior at Bainbridge High School. Outside of school, she is a competitive gymnast both for the high school and club teams, as well as a gymnastics coach. After high school, her main goal is to attend college and major in political science and international relations.



Senji Kanaeda, head monk, at Nipponzan Myohoji Temple on Bainbridge Island

Have (Inter)Faith

BY DINAH SATTERWHITE
PHOTOS BY DINAH SATTERWHITE

Local Council Promotes A Culture Of Service

The Bainbridge Island Interparish Council was exclusive to Christians when it was founded in 1968. Its purpose: to do good, serve the community and speak out against prejudice. But after turning down other local faith groups, the council realized that growth and better inclusivity was in order.

It disbanded in 1997 and reformed as the Bainbridge Island–North Kitsap Interfaith Council, or IFC. Membership is not based on particular theologies, but rather on basic shared values that spring from diverse faiths, and on the joy of celebrating each other's traditions.

IFC meets monthly, and its doors are open to newcomers. Guest speakers are often invited to share their perspectives, which help IFC members become aware of issues and offer support. Co-chair Johanna Munson defined the group's goals as "bringing together diverse

spiritual organizations in the area to share resources, support each other and build community."

Representing one of those organizations is Sue Anderson, from the First Church of Christ, Scientist, on Bainbridge. She established Spotlight on Faith at IFC. With its advent, meetings now start with someone sharing the essence of their faith through prayer, a poem, a reading or a song.

During IFC's Community Thanksgiving Service, faith groups and affiliates gather to show their gratitude through music, poetry, prayers, readings or interpretive expression. Singers, drummers, choirs and dancers all take part. "It is an important way to say thank you for all the bounty

that has come to us and our community and show gratitude for our country and the principles on which it was founded," Anderson said.

IFC works each spring with Bainbridge High School students to plan a baccalaureate service for the weekend before graduation. Faculty, seniors and IFC leaders develop a theme and contribute readings, art and music, with a guest speaker from the religious community.

Then there is the Good Neighbor Committee. IFC members carefully pool their thoughts on a current topic and write a unified letter of support to effect change or provide encouragement. They've written letters to support the Suquamish Tribe after a devastating 4,800-gallon oil spill in



Grace Episcopal Church members

2003, to support a school after a shooting and recently they wrote to the City of Poulsbo about the new roundabout construction on Highway 305 and Johnson Road that was to feature only Nordic themes. IFC requested that the city also consider honoring the Suquamish people and culture. Their idea was heard, and the roundabout's features are being revised.

IFC also established Helpline House on Bainbridge Island, which provides free social services and a food bank, and started the local CROP Walk, an event to raise money to help end hunger. CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) is a national, faith-based program responding to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Other noteworthy programs include IFC's Spring Music Festival, celebrating the new season with a wide variety of music in a worshipful setting; The Bob Satterwhite Memorial Scholarship, which supports graduating high school seniors,



and Super Suppers, a council-sponsored program for more than 20 years that helps ensure anyone can get free supper on the last seven days of every month, served at different churches in or near Winslow.

"The IFC is but one local example of a worldwide movement of dialogue and companionship between persons of many different faith traditions," said the Reverend Stephen Crippen from Grace Episcopal Church. "IFC gives me hope that even in this highly nonsectarian corner of the world, people of faith flourish and grow together, strengthened by their differences and united by their common purpose."

IFC currently includes 21 faith groups and affiliates. Crippen added that the Council is not a network of religious professionals, but an opportunity for lay and clergy leaders to come together and do valuable work, where people from all walks of life and all vocations are empowered to lead.

➔ More at binkinterfaith.org

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SET TO MUSIC

Renowned Performer Adds Arts Advocacy to His Mission

BY CONNIE BYE

PHOTOS BY ANNIE GRAEBNER

For someone whose life has revolved around music since age 5, Andrew Joslyn contends that becoming an advocate for artists was simply the next logical step.

"I want to show young people there is a huge music industry—and that it's possible to have a career in it," said Joslyn, an award-winning performer, composer, orchestrator and arranger.

With that goal in mind, he joined the board at Bainbridge Performing Arts, schedules performers at island venues and guides budding artists, while still pursuing his career.

"Andrew brings not only decades of experience in the performing arts to BPA, but also a fresh perspective around what it will mean to bring community together in a shifting, post-COVID landscape,"

Dominique Cantwell, BPA's executive director, said in an email interview. "Because he was raised on Bainbridge Island and has also performed around the world, he has a unique and deeply valuable sense of how special of an opportunity we have ahead of us with the opening of The Buxton Center for Bainbridge Performing Arts" in 2023.

After graduating from high school in 2001, Joslyn pursued a music degree at Western Washington University but switched to an English major and music minor when he saw a need to become savvy about the business side of music.

He turned to electric violin, became part of the rock band Handful of Lovin' and toured from 2002 to 2011. To help pay bills, he did temp work, including at Getty Images, where he worked on copyright compliance, an on-the-job education about "the back end of music and art," he said.

Joslyn later pursued a master's degree at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he learned more about the music business.

He also found that playing with the band had tapped into his desire to



improvise. Rock musicians play by ear, not by reading sheet music. "I had to retrain my brain in new ways," he said.

A professional breakthrough came when he became Macklemore's orchestra and string writer. Macklemore's "The Heist," an album Joslyn helped write and arrange, won best rap Grammy in 2014.

He has collaborated with a variety of artists in a range of genres, including Judy Collins and Leslie Odom Jr., and has worked with the Seattle Symphony, bringing in artists and writing arrangements.

In Seattle, he set up a recording studio in Pioneer Square, a space he maintained until 2020.

After a house fire destroyed most of his belongings in 2015, artists—some he didn't know—raised money to help Joslyn get back on his feet. That act of kindness spurred him to take on advocacy.

He became chair, then one of two trustees for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Recording Academy, best-known for its Grammy Awards. Joslyn co-chairs the national advocacy committee.

Looking for a change during the pandemic, he moved back to Bainbridge in 2020

with his wife, Madison. That also put them near his parents, Hajni and Marc Joslyn, founders of Entsuan Zen of Bainbridge Island.

He works these days in a home studio with his dog, Coda, and cat, Leo, nearby. "I've got close to 40 projects going right now," he said.

And he dived into the local arts scene. He schedules paid musicians at the Market Place, Manor House and Lynwood Theater. He worked with Arts & Humanities Bainbridge on the Creative District and joined BPA's board.

"Lots of people pat themselves on the back and say, 'We love the arts,'" Joslyn said. But he wants people to think—hard—about issues, such as fair pay. "In some places, musicians are expected to play for tips."

Cantwell said Joslyn's advocacy dovetails with BPA's mission of providing opportunities for amateur performers to build skills and confidence. Ideally, they'll take those experiences with them into the world.

"Whether that means having the polish to teach before a classroom of students, argue a case before a judge or speak at a conference, the stage is the perfect launching pad for just about any brave pursuit," Cantwell said. "Of course, it's especially satisfying when we see alumni making the leap into careers in the arts and further gratifying to see that people like Andrew are helping ensure that they have the tools and support to be successful when they do!"



shorts



WORK LIKE A DOG

Local Nonprofit Trains Canine
Helpers for Lives of Service

BY AUDREY NELSON

PHOTOS COURTESY ADNW

It's easy to miss the turn for the campus of Assistance Dogs Northwest (ADNW). But once you find the driveway, it is unmistakable as a half-dozen smiling dogs trot up to greet you at the gate.

Maureen "Mo" Maurer, the cofounder and executive director of ADNW, almost missed her own turn. Although as a girl she wanted to train dogs to help people with disabilities, she became a CPA instead. It wasn't until a health scare in her late 30s that she decided to quit her job, enroll at Bergin University of Canine Studies, and—along with her husband, Will—devote herself full-time to assistance dog nonprofits.

The Maurers' first project was Assistance Dogs of Hawaii, which is still the campus where Maurer spends most of her time. The Washington expansion was more recent. In 2017, the Maurers

bought land on Bainbridge, responding to a growing number of requests from the Pacific Northwest. ADNW now places dogs with people in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Although ADNW's grand opening took place just a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic, Maurer has already built a relationship with Bainbridge. ADNW graduates make visits to nursing homes and high schools, and Maurer hosts a workplace readiness program for students with special needs.

This community outreach is in addition to ADNW's main focus: training service dogs to assist people with mobility limitations, including spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy. ADNW's service dogs turn on lights, pull wheelchairs and open drawers and cabinets—simple tasks that restore a huge amount of independence to their humans. Maurer said her favorite part of her job is "just seeing how people's lives change when they get their dogs."



When puppies are first admitted to the ADNW training program, they stay at ADNW for a few weeks of kindergarten. Then they're placed with volunteer puppy raisers, who are responsible for the bulk of the puppies' basic training. When the dogs return to ADNW, they complete advanced training, and at this point, their future is determined.

Dogs that aren't cut out for the service track still have hope. ADNW also trains facility dogs, which are placed in agencies, such as hospitals and courthouses, rather than with individuals.

Kristin Knight is a licensed clinical social worker at Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon. She works alongside Davis, an ADNW graduate.

"Our partnership with ADNW has been such a gift," Knight wrote in an email interview. "These dogs are so special and really help soften what can be a very frightening and overwhelming experience for our patients and families."

On the courthouse side of things, Dr. Tandra Donohue directs Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center in Lacey, Washington. She's also the primary handler of justice facility dog Coco and the secondary handler of semi-retired courthouse facility dog Astro.

"Probably the best thing we've done for our programs and our kids...are these dogs," Donohue said.

The dogs, a comforting presence in court and during medical exams and forensic interviews, have a radical impact on the traumatized children Donohue works with.

"I have a long career," she said. "And when I look at all the things that we worked to provide that are very valuable, all the skills, all the talent, all the training—it ends up being that these dogs become the most impactful tool that we have."

Meanwhile, ADNW trainees who don't become service or facility dogs might join the 20 percent of Maurer's charges who need a career change. (Maurer urges you not to call them flunkies.) Or they might make critical scientific discoveries. About six years ago, Maurer published her first medical study, using dogs from ADNW and Assistance Dogs of Hawaii. Following work by Michael McCulloch, a pioneer in bio-detection research and one of Maurer's mentors, the study found that the dogs could be taught to detect bacterial infections in people. This year, Maurer published another study—the timely "Detection of SARS-COV2 by Canine Olfaction." She found that dogs could detect COVID-19 infections even before rapid tests could.

Out of all ADNW's trainees, these bio-detection dogs might seem particularly exceptional. But Maurer doesn't play favorites. "I think that all dogs have superpowers," she said.



 [More at *assistedogsnorthwest.org*](https://www.assistedogsnorthwest.org)

Behind the Curtain of Bainbridge's Historic Arthouse

Longtime Islanders Dedicated To Cinema And Community

It's not unusual to see Jeff Brein scooping popcorn or Sam Granato staffing the box office on any given weekend night.

BY
**CHANTELLE
LUSEBRINK**

PHOTOS BY
ANNIE GRAEBNER

"I don't remember my first movie, but I remember the price," Brein, 73, said. "It was a 25-cent ticket price."

For Granato, 86, the ticket price was 9 cents on his childhood Saturdays in Texas. "We took a quarter and that bought our ticket, our pop, candy and drink and our double feature, complete with serials and the news," he said.

Granato and Brein are the dynamic duo many islanders can thank for their first date kiss, the breakup that needed to happen, their first job or for countless hours of cinematic escapism and live entertainment. The two created Bainbridge Entertainment Enterprises in 1998, opening Bainbridge Cinemas at the Pavilion. The businessmen's venture was also designed to preserve the Historic Lynwood Theatre, which touts itself as the oldest continuously running movie house west of the Mississippi, and the second oldest continuously running business on the island, behind Bainbridge Gardens.

The Lynwood Theatre, built by husband and wife Edna and Emmanuel Olson, opened in 1936. Granato purchased the





business in 1980 from the Olsons' nephew Glenn Nolte. Stepping under its marquee and through its doors is to be transported to a bygone era. The smell of richly buttered popcorn and old wood hangs in the air; coming attractions posters and long-ago advertisements line the walls.

"From my perspective, Lynwood is the heart of Bainbridge Island, uniting the history of old Bainbridge and new Bainbridge," Granato said.

The theater has stood the test of time as have its owners—weathering the rapid technological advances in the film industry, both the boom and bust of blockbusters and flops—and most recently a pandemic that shuttered their business for 11 months.

Despite pandemic relief funding and streamlining business operations, Brein and Granato said that COVID delayed needed upgrades and that they are developing a community fundraising campaign to help get those underway.

"The theatre is not in danger of closing. Absolutely not," Brein said. "But Sam and I are looking at upgrades because it's time. We're looking at things to make it fresh, clean and functional for many, many years to come."

The Lynwood renovation list includes purchasing 223 new theater seats with higher backs and cup holders, replacing most of the original silk wall coverings with curtains for better acoustics (two large panels will be left in place for historic preservation), purchasing a generator to ensure power during inclement weather, making light and sound upgrades for live performances, finishing the marquee updates, and sprucing up the lobby.



Granato and Brein said the best way for islanders to support the renovations is simply by going to the movies and live performances, such as the sold-out Chris Kattan show this past summer. Kattan, of Saturday Night Live fame, worked at the Lynwood while attending BHS, and a

portion of the proceeds from his performance went to the renovation fund.

Brein's interests also extend off-island through Far Away Entertainment, which is an umbrella for other theater partnerships in small communities, as well as the historic Admiral and Varsity theaters in Seattle.

In addition to their cinema-related contributions, the longtime islanders (Granato moved here in 1978 and Brein in 1993) have woven themselves into the fabric of Bainbridge culture. Granato served as mayor from 1990 to 1993, and Brein has lent the marketing resources of his firm, Quinn/Brein Communications, to numerous public initiatives.

While Granato and Brein confess that their theater enterprise was partly a selfish indulgence in movie-going without leaving the island, they agree that maintaining the Lynwood Theatre as an integral part of the community is paramount to them personally. The pair have a free event-hosting policy for nonprofits, religious and political organizations, schools and independent filmmakers, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for various community projects.

"People say that movies are a thing of the past, and yet movies are still here. People still want to get out of the house ... and the experience in a movie theater is unmatched," said Brein. "It is something we love and something our families enjoy immensely. We want to ensure that we are good stewards of its legacy, and it continues to be a community asset."

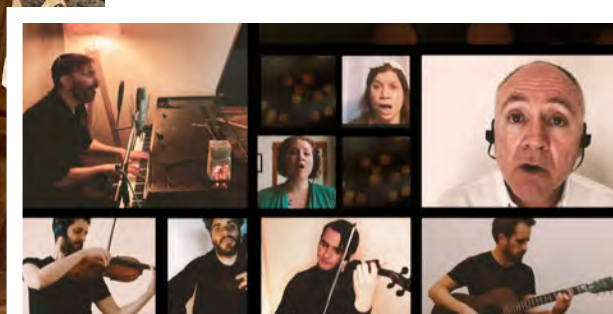


Rabbi Dario Feiguin never set out to be an IT guy.

After spending a quarter century building vibrant Jewish congregations in Argentina and Costa Rica, Feiguin grew hungry for a new challenge. Seeking an intimate community and a cooler climate, he and wife Yudi turned their attention to the north. Congregation Kol Shalom (CKS) on Bainbridge Island ticked all the boxes. "We fell in love with the island, with the congregation, with the people, with everything," he said.

Feiguin assumed his position as full-time rabbi at CKS in November 2019. Four months later, just as a crowd of congregants and friends from around the globe were to come together to celebrate his installation, COVID-19 forced the entire congregation into quarantine.

Overnight, leading a new congregation for which virtual gatherings were suddenly the only option, Feiguin found himself requiring a skill set that decades of experience as a rabbi had not provided. "I'm not a technical person. I didn't know what Zoom was," Feiguin recalled. "I had to learn everything."



A NEW YEAR AND A NEW START

BY GEORGE
SOLTES
PHOTOS COURTESY
CONGREGATION
KOL SHALOM

Bainbridge Synagogue Welcomes Congregants Back

CKS, with a membership of around 100 families when Feiguin took charge, has a significance for the local Jewish community which belies its small size. In addition to Bainbridge Island, the synagogue draws members from across north Kitsap County, with some coming from as far away as Port Townsend, according to CKS Board President Lori Weise.

For the past 40 years, the tightknit community has touched upon all aspects of Jewish life, with a religious school, a variety of adult education classes, book and movie groups and a vigorous social action program.



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Undaunted by the sudden change, Feiguin pivoted to face the new reality. "I said to myself, 'Well, this is a challenge. I am not going to let this pandemic end a congregation or end Jewish life here on the island,'" he recalled. "I told myself that I needed to be creative."

Feiguin underwent a technology crash course, learning to conduct services from his living room while congregants watched via Zoom or Facebook.

As his confidence grew, more innovations came. For important holidays and special services, he played guitar and sang live, accompanied by a group of Argentinian musician friends thousands of miles away. Videos were created in which congregants' individual performances were assembled into virtual choirs. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs became "Zoom Mitzvahs."

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the congregation grew. Weise estimated that around 20 new families joined during that time, many with young children. She attributed this growth to Feiguin's leadership. "We were incredibly lucky," she said. "We couldn't have done what we did with someone else."

In late September, Rosh Hashanah marked the Jewish New Year. At CKS, the celebration carried particular meaning, as the congregation emerged from COVID restrictions and was allowed, for the first time in a long time, to gather together in large numbers to observe the holiday. The best of the changes necessitated by the pandemic were retained, with remote access available to those who could not physically attend and the now familiar Argentinian musicians seamlessly accompanying the rabbi live from two large monitors in the sanctuary.

For Feiguin, the new year was a fresh beginning in more ways than one. "I wanted to listen again to the whole congregation singing as a choir," he said. "Being together, praying together, seeing each other's faces and expressions and eyes and smiles and even tears when necessary. That was the part of the story I had been missing."

➔ **For more information, visit kolshalom.net**

MORE THAN Welcome

BY
JANIE
WALTON
PHOTOS COURTESY BIWC

WOMEN'S CLUB ENCOURAGES ISLAND IMMERSION

The mother of today's Bainbridge Island Women's Club was Welcome Wagon. Realtors presented newcomers with a basket of goodies and local coupons—and an invitation to meet other new islanders at a monthly meeting, replete with speakers and refreshments.

Membership was about 75 women, and its major fundraiser was a raffle for a locally themed handmade quilt, an eagerly anticipated drawing during the Grand Old Fourth celebration each year.

Welcome Wagon morphed into the Bainbridge Island Women's Club in 2002. All island women, new and old, were invited to join. Its mission statement: To provide a friendly structured atmosphere conducive to welcoming new members, fostering friendships, organizing social activities and developing leadership skills, while working hand-in-hand with the community. Current membership is 140 and growing.

When islander Kay Garvey and her husband moved to Bainbridge eight years ago to be near their kids and grandson, a new acquaintance suggested she join BIWC. "I went to a meeting and sat at a table with five other women and immediately knew I wanted to be a part of this group," she said. "Our members are very inclusive. We have a variety of





activities and those that include your spouse or partner also include single women. I love that!" Since joining, Garvey has gone on to serve as co-chair for the program committee for three years and now handles the group's newsletter.

Community service and women helping women are core to the group. Monthly donations at meetings and various fundraisers regularly contribute to Helpline House and YWCA Alive. Guest speakers inspire members' support for other groups, and grant distributions are made at year's end. Some organizations that have benefitted are Arms Around Bainbridge, Boys and Girls Club, Kathleen Sutton Fund and West Sound Wildlife Shelter.

Group projects have included making fleece hats for Barb's Berets, warm soft hats for those undergoing chemotherapy, and cheery pillowcases to lift the spirits of residents of Pete Gross House.

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Members enthusiastically embrace new projects and suggestions.

Every third Thursday, the Women's Club meets in the social hall at First Baptist Church. After a half-hour of socializing and snacks, attendees are treated to a guest speaker. Topics have included Bees to the Rescue, Raising Resilience, The Bainbridge Island Land Trust as well as motivational talks from authors, such as Jonathan Evison.

This past September's meeting, for example, featured Merilee Mostov, director of exhibits and engagement at the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum.

After the keynote speaker, general meetings kick off and can include raffles, relevant news and discussions of new projects as well as a chance to sign up for special-interest small groups, such as the Soil Sisters, Knitting and More, Wednesday Walkers, 9 Hole Golf and Asian Mahjong. Someone's



interest can launch the next new group. Many members enjoy lunch out after the meetings, and newcomers are especially encouraged to come along. Recurring events include the holiday and summer luncheons.

In addition to taking part in Knitting and More and Soil Sisters, Garvey said she takes advantage of many of the group's other sub-groups too. She participates in Spicy Ladies which offers lady-only dining out, Pop-Up Activities which is an impromptu catchall group that can range

from a trip to a museum to a coffee date to a concert, and the No-Book Book Club. She currently chairs the Rotating In-Home Dining group.

Creative leadership during COVID kept the group together through Zoom meetings, a well-developed newsletter and outdoor gatherings, such as Parking Lot Bingo, Beach Trivia and Wine on the Deck. Meetings gradually moved indoors with open doors—and warm coats.

 [More at biwomensclub.org](http://biwomensclub.org)

Family Sugar Cookie Recipe

Made with love

2/3 cup shortening
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg

4 teaspoons milk
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt

Thoroughly cream shortening, sugar, and vanilla. Add egg; beat until light and fluffy (up to 3 min).

Once your mixture is fluffy gently stir in milk.

Sift dry ingredients together then blend into creamed mixture. Divide your dough into four to create four dough balls put dough into a large plastic bowl and cover with a well fitting lid and chill for at least 1 hour.

On a lightly floured surface roll out dough to 1/8 inch thickness and cut with your desired cookie shapes.

Bake on greased cookie sheet at 375 degrees for 6 - 8 minutes.

Allow cookies to cool slightly before removing from pan. Makes 2 dozen.

Cookie Tips - Use Crisco shortening take your time and be sure the creamed mixture is light & fluffy before adding milk & the dry ingredients. When rolling out your dough refrigerate the remaining dough until you are ready to roll it out and bake it. Let cookies cool completely before frosting.

Frosting

3 cups powdered sugar
4 tablespoon butter (Room Temp)

1 teaspoon vanilla
2 - 3 tablespoons milk

Mix all ingredients in an electric mixer. (Approx. 10 min)

Frosting Tips- Use C & H Powdered Sugar and the butter is at room temperature. Ensure the ingredients for the frosting are mixed extremely well ensuring all of the sugar is completely dissolved this could take up to 10 min. Your frosting should not be runny it should be semi thick, yet easily spreadable. Add powdered sugar if too runny. Add you favorite sprinkles while the frosting is still wet.



The last Vs of honking geese passed overhead weeks ago and are gone, just like the light-filled days of summer. Days now are short, and darkness is long. Even on sunny, clear days the air is sharp with chill, leaves crispy with frost.

We are through the fleeting summer and fall. We find ourselves buried, 180 degrees opposite summer's energy and its warm, joy-filled heart system of the Fire Element. Winter now has us hunkered down with fear filling the kidney system of the Water Element. The pull of winter's coldness draws us inward, literally, from outdoor activities to inside a warm home, but also emotionally and mentally. Many find themselves lacking energy, inspiration, motivation—caught in a blue-black net, unable to find freedom.

The Water Element rules the winter season and is one of five described in Chinese medicine, preceded by Fire and Earth and followed by Wood. Everyone is a blend of all the elements, and to be healthy, all need to be in balance.

The Water Element moves in cold, glacial time and can leave us feeling sad, stuck and hopeless during the deepest, darkest part of the year. But because of its slow, methodical pace, there is opportunity to fill your cup and recharge your battery! The rest and nutrition that you take in now is stored away in kidney and urinary bladder organ systems and is your foundational energy to be drawn upon to fuel your day-to-day life year-round.

Cultivate light and uplifting energy inside yourself by celebrating light in your environment. Focus on small indoor projects: crafting, creating, reading and writing. Selectively gather with close friends and family. Fill your home with light—candles, lamps, lanterns—and sit by a fire. Visit a dry or infrared heated sauna. Stew and slow-cook meats and root vegetables. Drink teas with echinacea and astragalus.

Utilize this inward, interior season and see it as the double bonus-points time of year. Get cozy; find and create comfort every day. This is your moment to cultivate your energy level that will fuel the sparks of what's to come in the spring.

SILENT NIGHT

STORY AND
PHOTO
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BY **KERRIE
HOUSTON REIGHTLEY**

PHOTOS BY DANÉE EDMUNDSON

The quiet of Tormey Lane is often broken by music and laughter, emanating from Emiliana Prado's Barrecor, a whole-body fitness studio that blends a remix of yoga, isometrics, Pilates and barre—the stationary handrail typically used in ballet training.

After a two-year closure, her business now is getting stronger each day, as are her students.

"Before COVID, things were flowing," Prado said, "and we had wait-listed classes every day, two times a day and evenings." As she works hard to rebuild her business—which now includes Silveronyx Technologies Ionic Air Purifiers to assure clean air—she attributes her success to a supportive Bainbridge community. "It's like a sisterhood," she said.

With 99 percent women patrons and more than 100 five-star reviews, Prado marveled how, "In spite of hard times, no one asked for discounts." She prides herself on creating a comfortable environment where "age doesn't matter," and 18- to 80-year-olds work out together. "Teenage girls bring their moms, and when they go off to college, their moms stay," she said.

Prado said sometimes clients feel embarrassed if, for example, they can't do the isometric holds. They need not be. "I'm here to help guide my clients to gain strength, flexibility, balance and stamina," she said. "I'm very kind, but I will push them." If clients feel too shy about trying, Prado suggests starting with her online classes.

"I'm actually clumsy," she said. A peek at her Facebook video would indicate otherwise, as she lies on her back with a ball under her sacrum, elegantly lifting her shins very slowly to a 90-degree angle, holding them there for what seems an eternity, then alternately touching each pointed foot to the floor.

"I didn't grow up playing sports, so I can't catch or throw a ball," Prado said. "But I can help clients build a baseline to complement their sport, whether it's to build a stronger body or to recover from a sports injury. We're not jumping around. Body alignment is our focus."

Prado loves to remind her students: "We're not competing with others. We're competing against our former selves."

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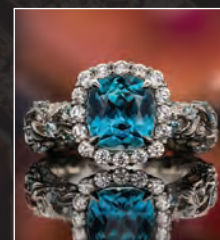
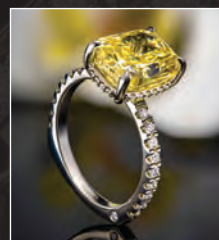
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Catching Up with **BLAIR KING**

BY ISABELLE
HAINES

PHOTOS BY
ANNIE GRAEBNER

During his decades-long career in local government, **Blair King** has lived and worked in coastal cities, such as Half Moon Bay, Coronado, Eureka and Imperial Beach, in California. These days, you can find him at Bainbridge Island City Hall, where he serves as city manager.

While important, city manager isn't a job most kids know about. When you were 10 years old, what was your dream job?

When I was 10 years old, I lived on a cattle and apple ranch, and anything that got me away from there was my dream job. During my college years, I had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C.—before that I was an agricultural economics major—and I got interested in government. Being involved in local government, working for cities, being so close to the public, that's what really interested me, and so that's what set me on my career path.

What defined your first year as city manager of Bainbridge Island?

On one hand it was familiar. Some of the mechanics of a municipal corporation—that’s what Bainbridge Island is—are the same from place to place. For example, accounting standards that are basically the same. On the other hand, Bainbridge Island is a very unique kind of city. The semi-rural nature of the city is different. It’s only been incorporated as an island city for about 30 years, so it’s relatively new—basically one generation old. Just the process of getting to know the community during COVID was much more difficult than normal circumstances. I will say I learned something new every day.



council passed an ordinance that prohibited playing pickleball on tennis courts.

What is a person, thing or experience that has inspired you?

I am a naturalized citizen—I came to the United States as a toddler, and I’ve had great opportunities growing up here. As a young adult, I went back to an orphanage that I lived in, and I met some people that were still at the orphanage who were there at the same time I was. I had a lifetime of opportunity in front of me, while these people that were my age had very limited opportunities. That has inspired me to appreciate what I have and what I’ve been given, and to contribute and give back to reflect for what those people did not have.

Have you been swept up in the pickleball craze?

So, I have played pickleball, but I also like all kinds of athletic endeavors, whether that be ax-throwing, cornhole or pickleball. Professionally, I have had several hours of my life consumed with conflict with tennis and pickleball. In fact, in the last city that I was the manager of, the conflict was so intense that the city

What is something about you that people can’t find out from the Internet?

My dad was an old rancher, and so when I got to high school, I had no curfew, I had no rules. I just had to be home to milk his cows— there were five—twice a day. And there was no milking machine, I had to milk them by hand.



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IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS

Volunteers Lend a Hand to Help Fellow Islanders

By Christy Carley | PHOTOS COURTESY IVC



For 20 years, islander **Jeff Brown** belonged to the proverbial commuter club.

“I took the ferry every morning and came home every night,” he said. “So, I thought that’s what everybody did. When I stopped working in Seattle, I realized that there was a whole community here that I didn’t know very much about.”

When Brown retired in 2016, he was looking for ways to plug into the Bainbridge community. His wife suggested he get involved with Island Volunteer Caregivers (IVC), a local nonprofit that provides an array of free services to island seniors and folks with medical disabilities, regardless of income. Brown signed up to be a volunteer driver, often accompanying care receivers to and from medical appointments and cultural events, logging about three to six volunteer hours a week.

“It was very quickly clear that the value is connecting with people who live here that I wouldn't otherwise get to meet,” Brown said. “What happens to most of us is we have a circle of friends or acquaintances, and that's who we know, whereas IVC expanded that for me.”

Brown is one of IVC's 270 volunteers who collectively support more than 370 care receivers on the island, most of whom are seniors. Volunteers—who can commit to as many or as few hours as they want—help with transportation, grocery delivery and light housekeeping or yard work. IVC also runs a medical notetaking service, a flower delivery program, and a wealth of group activities. Some volunteers simply offer companionship, which sometimes evolves into friendships—one volunteer takes a care receiver birdwatching regularly, while another pair goes out for beer on Friday nights.

Though the name might cause confusion, volunteers with IVC—originally founded in 1996 as Interfaith Caregivers—don't offer the same services a professional caregiver might. They can't bathe care receivers, for example, and aren't available for the in-home care that some might need. Still, they provide essential services that are increasingly in demand as the senior population grows nationally and on the island.

“We have a crisis on our hands, especially on Bainbridge Island,” said Joanne Maher, IVC's executive director. More than a quarter of Bainbridge residents are age 65 and older. Thirty-three percent



of seniors on the island, said Maher, are between 70 and 79, “and in the next 10 to 15 years, they’ll be growing into their 80s and 90s.”

“They’re going to need support from our community,” she said. “A greater level of support than what they have today.”

Access to available, affordable care is a problem nationwide, especially since the onset of COVID, but Bainbridge faces unique challenges. “[Professional] caregivers do not find Bainbridge Island accessible,” said Maher, citing a lack of local affordable housing as well as expensive transportation options for those who live off-island. While professional in-home caregiving is not in IVC’s “wheelhouse,” as Maher put it, they do their best to connect community members to needed services and help where they can.



Volunteers with IVC can sign up for daily emails with requests from care receivers—someone might need weeding done in their garden or a prescription to be picked up and delivered. Another person might want company on a walk through the park. Often, though, the requests are for transportation, usually to medical appointments.

In July, IVC conducted a community-wide needs survey with funding from the Bainbridge Community Foundation. Among the 562 respondents, all age 65 and up, a majority were dissatisfied with the lack of affordable housing on Bainbridge. Many respondents also expressed concern about the island's limited medical services, especially since the closure of the Swedish primary care clinic last year.

While Bainbridge residents have long had to seek specialty care off-island, IVC staff say the primary care system is now also becoming strained. Despite a long list of volunteers, finding



TO COMBAT LONELINESS, IVC ORGANIZED PHONE CHECK-INS AND VIRTUAL GROUP ACTIVITIES.

someone to accompany a care receiver to a doctor's appointment in Seattle can be tough. "Our volunteers are wonderful, compassionate people. They want to take our care receivers to their medical appointments," said Maher. But with unexpected delays and inconsistencies in the ferry system, a trip to Seattle can take all day.

Such transportation requests aren't usually as simple as dropping someone off at the ferry to be picked up on the other side. "These are individuals who actually need someone to walk with them onto the ferry and get them into the building for their appointment," said April Avey Trabucco, volunteer program manager at IVC.

Maher emphasized that IVC is "not a taxi service. This is more about companionship, more about walking alongside somebody."

For requests that don't get picked up quickly, IVC has a list of on-call volunteers. If those folks aren't available, a staff member may volunteer to drive. IVC receives an average of 40 requests per week, including those unrelated to transportation. Despite the challenges, they're able to fill about 90 percent of those requests.

When COVID took hold, the organization adjusted its programs to meet the changing needs of care receivers. Volunteers delivered meals and helped with errands outside the home for those in isolation. Phone conversations grew longer as the need for human interaction grew more acute. Katie Auger, IVC's community resource navigator, remembered one call from a care receiver who said she was the first person they had talked to in weeks.

To combat loneliness, IVC organized phone check-ins and virtual group activities. Lynn Murphy, IVC's life enrichment coordinator, took care receivers on a virtual walk across the UK to replace their normal Kreaky Knees walking group.

As the first vaccines became available in Washington, Auger recalled receiving "panicked phone calls." Slots to get vaccinated disappeared quickly and some folks didn't have email addresses, which were required to sign up. IVC embarked on a vaccination drive to get them signed up and partnered with Bainbridge Prepares, Bainbridge Community Pharmacy and the Senior Community Center to make sure everyone got the shots they needed.



“We’re so reliant on the support of our friends, families, and neighbors on our island. If an emergency ever happened on this island, we would be uniquely reliant on each other,” said Maher, who added, “It doesn’t take an emergency to make us help each other.”

Indeed, when IVC volunteers were asked what they loved about the organization, most cited their connections with care receivers. When care receivers were asked the same question, they said that what they loved most about IVC was the volunteers.

Charles Wallace volunteered to drive for IVC until he hurt his foot and his car, in his words, “decided to go to car heaven.” Now he finds himself requesting rides from other volunteers but said that building relationships isn’t so different from the passenger seat.

“This is about caring for each other and the community,” Trabucco said. “It’s mutually beneficial.”

“We’re grateful for every single volunteer,” she added. “The more volunteers we have, the better we’re able to fill all sorts of these growing requests. It’s not gonna get lighter. We’re gonna be busy.”

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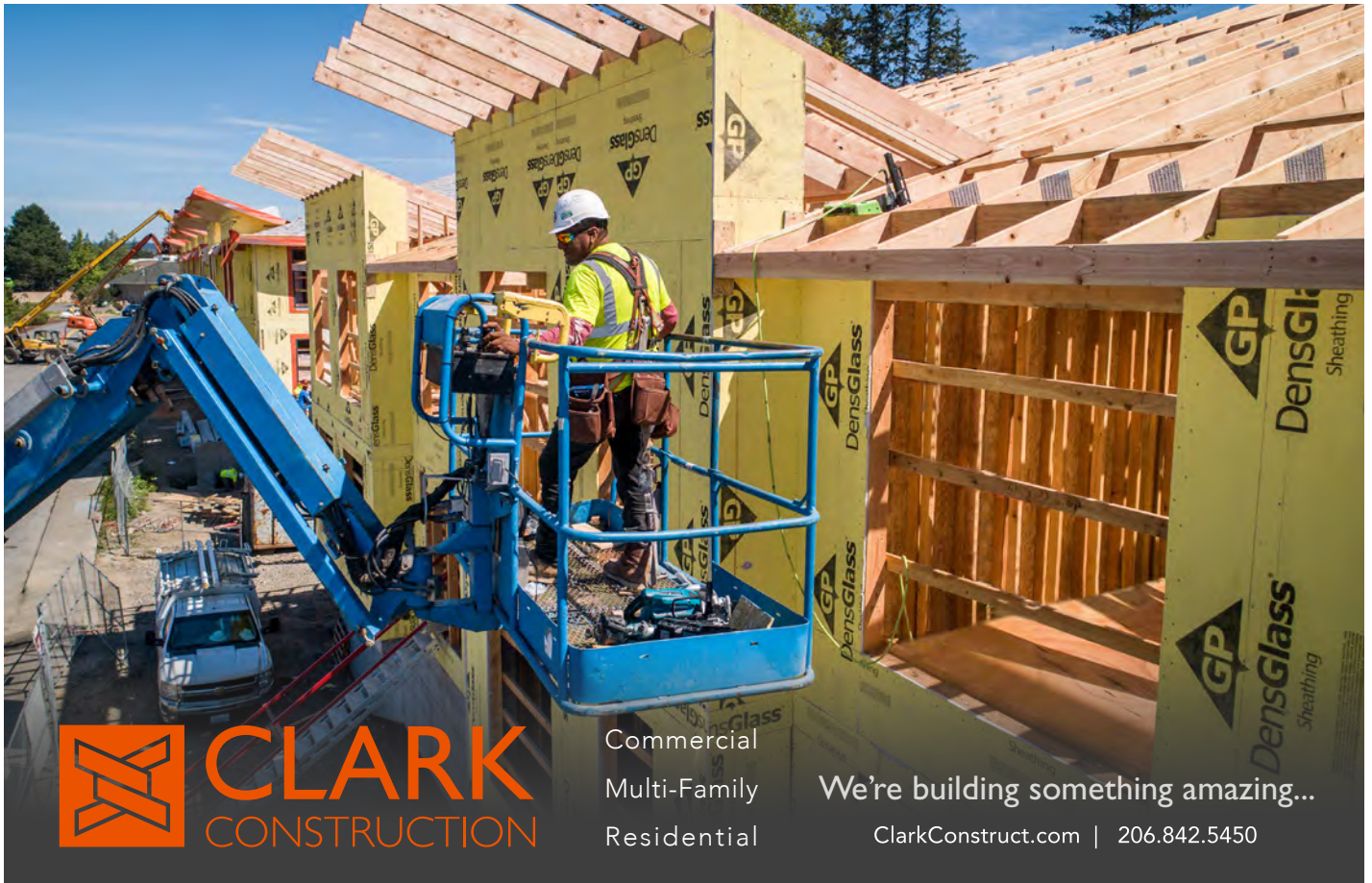
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LEVERAGING

Contractor Turns a Twist into **Triumph**

By Alli Schuchman | Photos by David Cohen



OPPORTUNITY

Brandon Keller is one of those people who, when life takes a tack, cheerfully leans into it, making the curve look like it was all part of the grand plan. Perhaps he achieves his Zen demeanor from all the time he spends at the local dog parks after work with his year-old lab, Eddie.

T

he bright-eyed and affable Keller is founder and project manager at Cogwheel, a relatively new and flourishing construction company that primarily focuses on residential and commercial construction and remodeling but counts a fair number of special projects and offshoots in its portfolio, too.

Keller has been on Bainbridge since 1995, working his way through

its school system and then beyond to Evergreen State College in Olympia, where he earned his degree in entrepreneurship and economics, earning some credits by taking on internships on Bainbridge. One of the first was through the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island's Waypoint Project—billed as a gateway to the island—at Winslow Way and Highway 305.

“I helped with the fundraising push and mailouts,” he said. After the project wrapped, Keller joined PHC Construction, which had been the volunteer contractor on Waypoint. “The only thing that they had for me was on the LEED certification of the art museum,” he said. “That started my career.” Keller spent more than five years with PHC working on a number of the island's public





Loanna and Jon Day with Keller at their newly remodeled home in Winslow Green.

PHOTO BY ALLI SCHUCHMAN

projects such as the award-winning Grow community and BARN among others, and in the process, joined BIMA's facility building and grounds committee.

Keller next moved to Clark Construction, starting as project manager for Phase 2 of the Roost community on the west edge of Lynwood Center, eventually transitioning into management of its "small" projects, defined as anything under \$1 million in value. "That was a

really good experience," he said. "I met a lot of people, and it was a great fit for a long time, but I wanted to try a Seattle company," a move which took him to Compass General Construction as a senior project engineer. "I did that for exactly a year and then got laid off when COVID impacts scared the banks."

Shortly after losing his job, Keller received a letter from the state, notifying him that that if he started his own

business, it would pay him full-time unemployment benefits through its Self Employed Assistance Program while the company found its legs.

"I decided I needed to become a general contractor full-time because I had all the relationships from the previous eight years," he said, noting that when he was at PHC, many of its investors and clients had encouraged him to create his own entity.





“
This year,
a fair
amount of
our projects
have been
full interior
remodels.”



Part of the Smith family
in their new kitchen in the
Point White neighborhood.



By any measure, it's going well.

"Basically, I started with no money and a \$10,000 credit card limit and was able to get to \$500,000 in revenue," he said. "Our first year was one person and now we're up to nine employees and past our \$2 million revenue goal." Currently its residential remodel projects account for around 70 percent of Cogwheel's work, while commercial business makes up the rest.

Keller credits Cogwheel's early success to it being island-based, along with its transparent pricing model of cost-plus time and materials. Much of what the company does is kitchen and bathroom remodels, which he pointed out have some of the greatest impact on a home's livability as well as reaping a good return on investment for homeowners.

Loanna Day and her husband Jon worked with Cogwheel to remodel their home at Winslow Green, a condominium they had previously used as a rental. The Days renovated it before they moved from Seabeck in 2021. "We appreciated right from the start how well Brandon listened to our input and ideas. He was good with details and came in on time and very close to budget even though there were some challenging tasks," she said. "He had a good rapport with his workers and tradesmen, his people skills are excellent. He is a skilled contractor on many levels."

Cogwheel's scope continues to expand. "This year, a fair amount of our projects have been full interior remodels," he said. "We're getting more \$500,000-plus remodel projects."



Obviously, there's always a budget, but we've been learning that the higher price point projects are more worried about getting the project done the right way."

Keller predicts the remodeling trend won't slow down any time soon. "We're going to see a lot more repurposing of existing structures. Land is finite, and a lot of it is developed," he said. "There certainly are opportunities to demo and build new, but from a scale and cost point, there's a lot you can do by just remodeling the space."

He believes his approach has been key. "In every remodel, there is an abundance of decisions, and the speed at which they're made is very important," he noted. "The most expensive part of construction is rework. So, if somebody makes a decision and doesn't like it, doing it again is where you lose value. We try to get ahead of that as much as we can." He also explained the downside of delivering a job out of sequence. "Every project that succeeds has some momentum and becomes a scheme of



There certainly are opportunities to demo and build new, but from a scale and cost point, there's a lot you can do by just remodeling the space."



sequencing and timing. Nobody wants to pay for a bunch of extra mobilizations to get people doing little half-day's work."

Keller said that one of his most important tools has been bringing in interior designers before projects get rolling. "One of the biggest misconceptions in construction is that



people can't afford an interior designer, but the reality is, a lot of them can't afford not to. The designer makes sure what you're putting in makes sense," he said. "They're good about showing you where you should spend your money. One of their biggest values is defining the project and coaching the owner through it."

Tamah Burke, designer and owner of Color Sanctuary, described working with Keller as refreshing. "Cogwheel is open

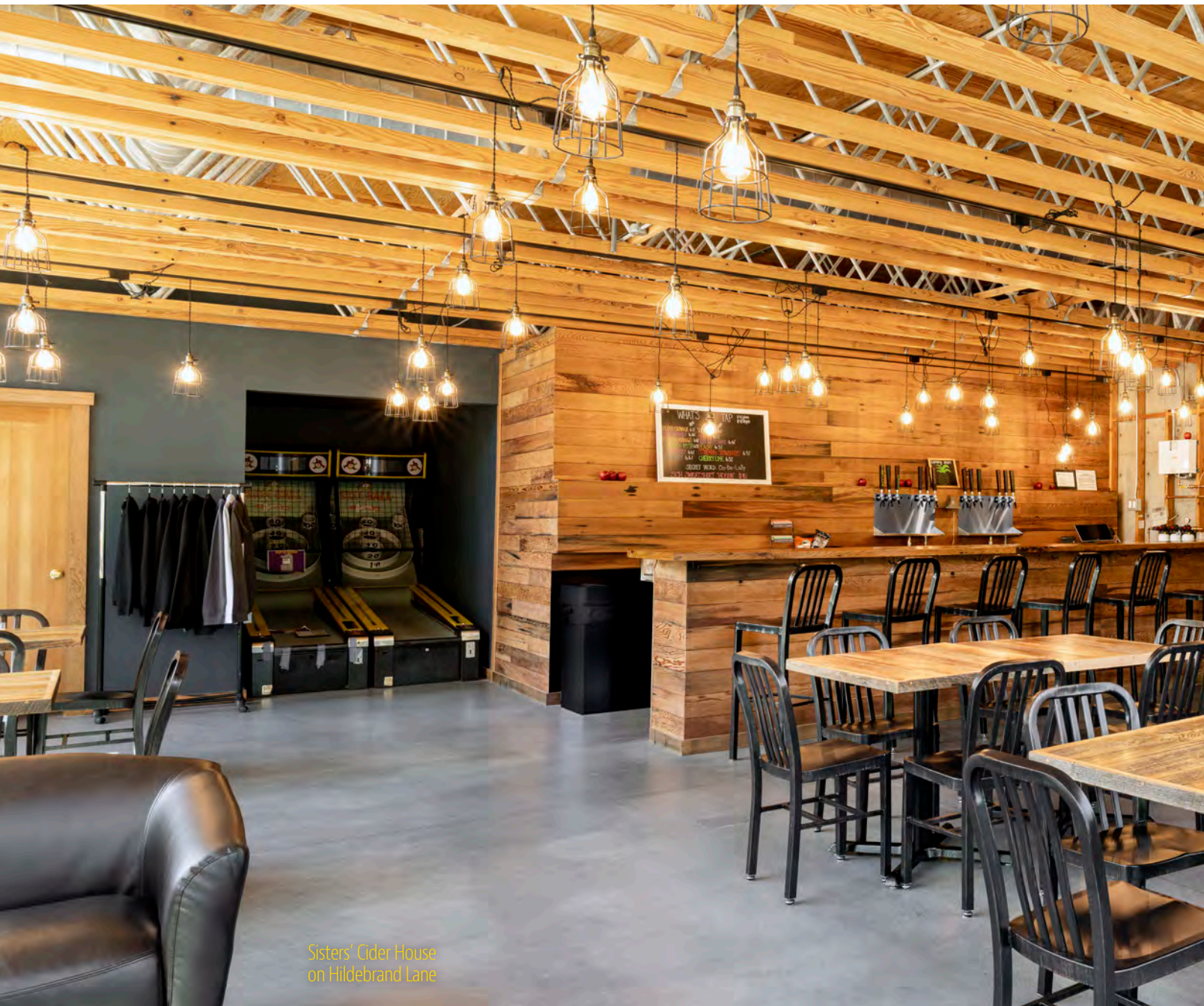
to creative ideas and resolutions, a uniqueness not always found with other contractors." she said. "They allow Color Sanctuary to offer thoughtful integrations. Brandon knows having this as part of his process will give him an advantage."

Kim McCall of Kim McCall Design sees their partnership as an asset, too. She first learned of Keller when another contractor referred him. McCall said that the job was for a waterfront estate on an estuary and that the client was



Cogwheel is open to creative ideas and resolutions, a uniqueness not always found with other contractors.”

particularly scrupulous. “I needed to find somebody I could feel comfortable with, that was going to be able to do a good job and listen and execute.” Although she said the job was primarily cosmetic, Keller’s team also identified and replaced a failed structural beam. “It would’ve been catastrophic to the structure over time.” Cogwheel also found a serious



Sisters' Cider House
on Hildebrand Lane



water issue. “There is a large pond, and its water was mixing into the main water line in the home. Two major saves!”

In addition to residential work, Cogwheel has added some high-profile commercial jobs to its portfolio, including PhysioWorks’ new location in Silverdale and locally, BIMA Executive Offices on Madrona Way, TR L’Atelier on Winslow Way and Sisters’ Cider House on Hildebrand.

Putting the right team together has been vital and will be even more so as Cogwheel continues to grow. “One of my mantras is that we all share in the victories and defeats,” he said. “We were kind of bootstrapping it the first year. It was basically me and a couple part-time helpers. Now that we have a team, we continue to formalize and refine our process. Our goal is to be one of the big four contractors on the island.”

Cogwheels’ blue work vehicles are increasingly out and about around town. Their big white logo is hard to miss. “For me, Cogwheel means that you’re an element of the bigger machine,” said Keller. “A cog doesn’t do really anything on its own. You need at least two of them. And then all of a sudden you have two, and then you have leverage.”



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Kvetch Me *if You Can*



Ripe for the Pickin'

BY RAFFI
MINISIAN

The other day I came home from T&C and sliced into a bad avocado. You know the kind...dappled with brown lumps of anguish amidst the creamy, flavorful green we so desperately seek.

A return trip to T&C and a kind word results in a courtesy replacement, but who knows what the meaty inside will reveal next time, when sacrificed for avocado toast, guacamole or simply drizzled with lemon and salt for a midday snack.

Forget that there are no avocado groves within miles of our charming hamlet, and that tasty guacamole can be found at Casa Rojas after victoriously navigating the treacherous new round-about, swingabout, lightly graze-about or whatever that rounded lump of recently installed cement is at the former apex of our precious and now-forgotten four-way stop at Madison and Wyatt. The former site of onerous civility, where islanders gestured at one another from Prius to pick-up truck, "No, you go," "Oh no, I insist, please you," while tourists or people oddly in a rush to get to Poulsbo honked in frustration.

Clearing the roundabout, the avocado bumps from the seat of the car and sails into the footwell. Reaching down is too dangerous, so there it sits, in limbo. As I ponder, "Is it a fruit or a vegetable? Am I getting enough healthy saturated fat?" my thoughts are interrupted by the horn of yet another eager driver on a crusade to Sluys for a midday doughnut run.

The avocado now safely home, I prepare the feast, setting the table outside to enjoy one of the rare warm summer days that make living here so wonderful. I gaze at my yard overlooking the Sound, faintly hearing out-of-state gl camper kids at Fay Bainbridge Park waiting for another hot dog. But all is well. I can feel the avocado working, lowering my LDL.

Considering the hundreds, if not thousands of miles an island avocado must travel to help me meet my Virginia Mason mandated cholesterol numbers, our bounty of produce is quite remarkable, even if it sometimes does result in a few trips to the market and a bumpy ride over the roundabout. Maybe next time, I'll saddle up and head to the Farmers Market. I must have a plaid flannel shirt lying around here somewhere.

➔ **Raffi Minisian** is a writer, professor of industrial design and vintage car enthusiast. He co-hosts the weekly podcast *Clutch Radio* with Dan Rosenberg, with whom he co-stars in a new sitcom pilot currently wrapping production.

Bainbridge *by the Numbers*

Mitten Weather

Winter approaches, bringing the possibility of snow. Bainbridge Island averages 4 inches of snow a year, compared with 28 inches average for the U.S. overall, according to Bestplaces.net. December usually is our snowiest month with an average of 1.9 inches. Still, sometimes things get out of hand. In February 2019, tandem storms dumped 18 inches of snow on parts of Bainbridge.

Number of days with more than 1 inch of snow

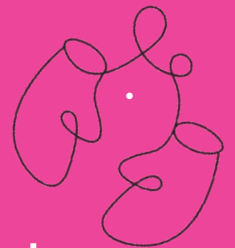
1 day

December

¼ day
January

½ day

November and
February





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BY JEFF FRAGA
PHOTOS BY DAVID COHEN

feast on this

When Miguelito's Says "Bienvenidos" They Really Mean it

"There's a saying in Mexico that people welcome you with food," said Miguel Rojas, owner of the two Miguelito's locations on the island, at Island Village and Lynwood Center. "It's a tradition that we extend to our customers every day."

After 33 years of restaurant experience—including 16 years at Island Village—Rojas was ready for a new challenge. "Last summer I discovered that the restaurant space in Lynwood Center was becoming available," he said. "And since it would give us new ways to serve our customers, I couldn't wait to sign the lease."

Just like at Island Village, every recipe is made from scratch. "We make everything fresh. All the recipes, from salsas and meats to



rice and beans, everything," said Rojas. "We chop our own lettuce, we cut our own tomatoes. It's all made in-house."

The most popular dish? "The Con Todo Burrito," he says without hesitation. Con todo means with everything, and true to its name, the tasty burrito weighs in at just over a pound. Every bit as delicious but not quite as large are Rojas' chicken enchiladas, enveloped in house-made mole sauce that will transport you to Oaxaca.

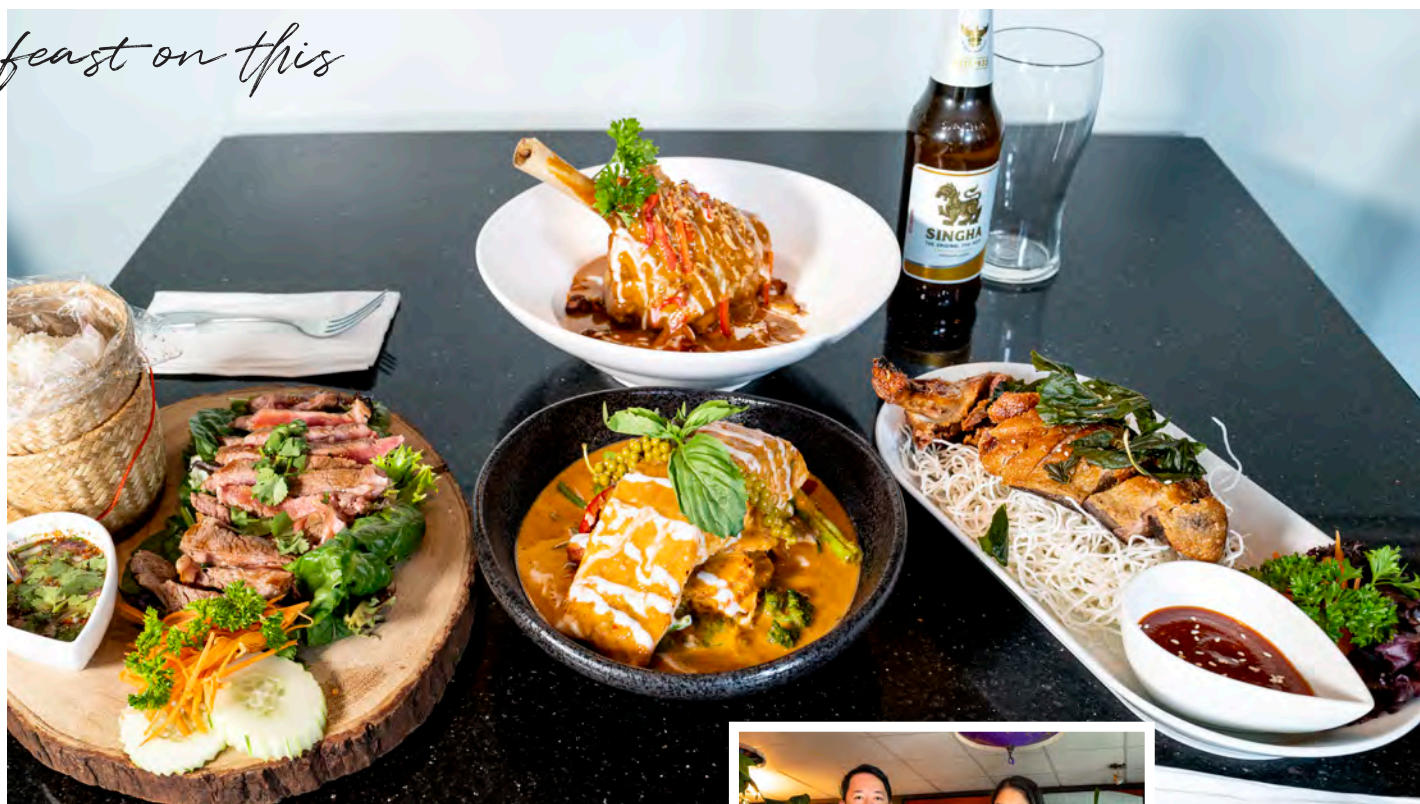
But there are some differences between the two locations. For example, the Lynwood Center restaurant plans to offer sit-down dinners. "We're developing a dinner menu that will have more upscale traditional dishes from different states of Mexico," said Rojas. "We also expect to have Mexican cocktails and beer and hope to serve brunch starting this summer."

Meanwhile, grab some friends, check out the new casual seating areas and dig into a platter of Double Layer Nachos.

➔ **Miguelito's Cocina Mexicana**
miguelitoscocinamexicana.com



feast on this



PHOTOS BY DAVID COHEN

No Surprise That **SAWAN THAI** Means Thai Heaven

In case you hadn't noticed—and it's easy to miss Sawan's front door among the apartments at its Lynwood Center location—Bainbridge has a world-class Thai restaurant in its midst. Sawan Thai means "Thai Heaven," and the team at Sawan Thai is working to create nothing short of a revolutionary new Thai dining experience on the island.

In fact, ever since the current owners bought Sawan last spring, just about everything at the restaurant is new, from the menu to the interior design. "We plan to keep our restaurant unique with a combination of authentic Thai dishes and Asian fusion dishes," said Lalin Kiarttichaiwarakul, who runs the front of

the house and owns the restaurant alongside her mother Patcharawalai and "Chef Dan", Junyaporn Wichyasomboon. So, while you can order old favorites like Pad Thai and Tom Yum, you can also enjoy dishes like Sawan's Mussaman Curry with Lamb Shank, Ginger Halibut or Garlic Soft Shell Crab—and many more that are exclusive to Sawan.

Chef Dan has more than 10 years of Thai and Asian fusion culinary experience, including training at a culinary academy in Thailand. His prior experience includes running Thai restaurants in Australia, Portland and Bellevue. Sawan's new owners also own Banana Leaf Thai Bistro in Port Townsend.

Lalin says the restaurant prides itself on using high-quality ingredients and aims to have new dishes every month. It also stresses the importance of plating and food presentation. And if someone isn't satisfied? "We take the feedback seriously and try to improve it for the better," she said.

"Above all," she added, "our team is continually striving for perfection."



Sawan Thai

4765 Lynwood Center Road NE
206-842-5345

Who Says Man Can't Live BY BREAD ALONE?

When a bakery business is your bread and butter, it's important not to let it get stale. That's how Jerry and Tristen Childers, who own **Coquette Bake Shop** on Winslow Way, have parlayed their love for bread, pastries and each other into one of the most popular bakeries on the island. Jerry is in charge of the breads and Tristen oversees the pastries.

PHOTOS BY DINAH SATTERWHITE



Part of the courtship between Jerry and Tristen revolved around bakeries and baking. Tristen tantalized him with some of her creations and Jerry introduced her to Tartine, the legendary bakery in San Francisco, which would ultimately become the inspiration for their own bakeries. "We would ride bicycles to this bakery and wait in a long line, connecting with other queuers about what favorite items kept them coming back to this beloved institution," remembered Jerry.

Seven years ago, Jerry and Tristen moved to Bainbridge Island and opened Coquette, which quickly became known for its baguettes, croissants and other baked goods. Seattle Met magazine went so far as to tell its readers that Coquette's croissants were the best ones outside of Paris, noting that Tristen bakes them the Parisian way, "with a million layers, each of them butter-rich, and a crisped and shattering exterior." Mais oui.

Close your eyes and you're there.



Coquette Bake Shop

206-922-8939

Look for its new, expanded location in Winslow Green in early 2023.



1. Winter of Wonder at Bloedel

Bloedel Reserve is magical to visit year-round, but for the month of December that magic will be multiplied by handmade woodland creatures dispersed throughout the grounds (many crafted by teens at the Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network). Enjoy the winter wonderland with an all-ages scavenger hunt on the reserve.

December 1 – January 3
bloedelreserve.org

2. Winter Studio Tour

Striking sea-glass jewelry, salad bowls made from recycled wood and playful ceramic mugs are just a few examples of the eclectic items that will be on display at this year's Winter Studio Tour. Stop by one (or a few!) of five island locations to find the perfect holiday gift.

December 2, 3 & 4,
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
bistudiotour.com

3. Studio Sale (plus cocktail hour!)

Island artists Lynn Brunelle, Kathy Glanzrock and Robin Hansen are teaming up for a studio sale at an historic barn near Johnson Farm. Come by to purchase holiday gifts from island artists (ornaments, embroidered textiles, jewelry) and sip on hand-crafted cocktails or spiced cider.

December 2, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(cocktails and snacks)

December 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

(cider and cookies)

December 4, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

(cider and cookies)

simplicitygems.com

4. Gingerbread (read: Graham cracker) houses at KiDiMu

If the youngest members of your household are aspiring architects (or even if they lean toward the demolition line of work) they'll probably appreciate the challenge of graham cracker and frosting construction at KiDiMu this holiday season. All building materials (including candy) provided.

December 2 – 11 - extended hours during First Friday Art Walk and BIMA Holiday Art Market
kidimu.org



2



4



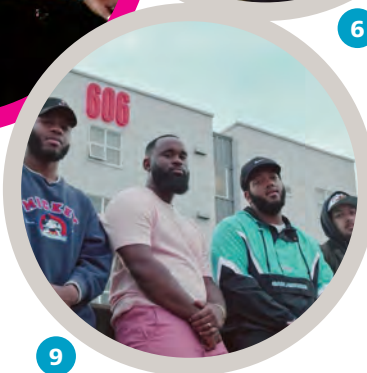
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5



6



9

5. Snowglobe Winter Music Series

Sounds of R&B, jazz fusion, hip hop and choir music (from the Seattle-based African American Choral Ensemble) will fill BIMA's Frank Buxton Auditorium this December. The variety of styles means you can stick to what you like or expand your horizons. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

December 4 - Francesco Crosara Trio with Gail Pettis

December 9 - Upper Left & Spawn of the Machine

December 10 - ACE Choir - The African American Choral Ensemble

December 17 - Elnah Jordan and Eric Verlinde

6. Bainbridge Ballet's Nutcracker

Bainbridge Ballet's 18th annual Nutcracker will take place this December, choreographed by mother-daughter duo Sara Cramer and Oksana Sherbina. This year, Bainbridge Ballet plans to have a pay-what-you-will dress rehearsal and hopes to donate live trees used in the show to families in Kitsap County.

December 16, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

December 17, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

December 18, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

December 19, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

December 20, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
bainbridgeballet.com

7. Polar Bear Plunge

In winter, the temperature of Puget Sound isn't far from the temperature of the air. That doesn't mean a New Year's plunge will be pleasant, but it might be a refreshing start to 2023. Get to Lytle Beach a little before noon to participate in this 20-year-old island tradition.

January 1
Lytle Beach

8. BHS Winter One Acts

Many of Bainbridge's best budding thespians are still roaming the halls of the high school. Head to the (still pretty new) BHS Theater for the annual Winter One Acts: written, directed and acted by BHS students.

February 3 & 10, 7 p.m.

February 4 & 11, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

bisd303.org

9. BIMA's Spike Lee Film Series

During Black History Month, BIMA will show a series of films by director Spike Lee, ranging in content and style from a documentary to a drama/comedy but all dealing with themes of race and racism. All showings at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

February 6 - Pre-series Webinar

February 7 - Malcolm X

February 14 - BlackKkLansman

February 21 - 4 Little Girls

February 28 - Crooklyn

March 1 - Post-series Forum

biartmuseum.org

Winter Night Market

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WHEN

Dec 2nd & 3rd, 4pm-8pm

WHERE

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Holiday Themed Drinks for all ages

DIY Activities

Holiday Movies

Photo Booth



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Graffiti Then and Now (detail), 2019, lampworked glass and mixed media, 12" h x 26" w x 18" d, photo by James Harnois



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YOU CAT MAKE THAT UP

BY ALLI
SCHUCHMAN



Islander Lone Shepherd stepped in to help her friend JP, a contract worker from San Diego, when a job took him to Alaska, where he sadly couldn't bring along his beloved cat, Beloved. "She arrived at my house on a Monday at 1:30 a.m. in the morning," she recounted. "We got her settled, and the next morning I went to work."

When Shepherd arrived home that evening, she and her daughter, Winona, were stunned to discover that Beloved, less than 24 hours after arriving, had unexpectedly given birth to two tiny kittens, one a grey tabby and the other all white. "She was an indoor cat, so it was just like a crazy whoopsie happened somewhere."

What makes the story more interesting is that Shepherd, the night prior to Beloved's arrival, had dreamt about the kittens' birth. Stranger yet is that in her dream, the cat had three babies, including a gray and white one, in addition to the two others she had correctly conjured. Her visions were quickly reconciled the following day, when JP's mom called to let Shepherd know that her lost gray and white cat had miraculously returned home. "I was like, I already knew that," she said. "I realized that the kitten in the dream I saw was really the missing cat."

So, the question on everyone's mind.... "Yeah, we're keeping the kittens," said Shepherd, who added that their working names are Twig and Tweak. That may change after she gets to know them better. "They're only four weeks old now and I want to know their personalities a bit more." Their eyes are open, they're starting to play with one another, and she believes one is a girl and the other a boy. Beloved will be ready to be spayed soon, and the other two will get fixed sometime around Christmas.

"It's been quite an experience," said Shepherd. "I've only had like two cats in my life prior to this. And now I'm a crazy cat lady."

▶ *Shepherd is a speech therapist assistant in the Bremerton School District. Born on the island, she returned five years ago and lives here with her daughter.*



Get Cozy



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[STEFANIE@WINDERMERE.COM](mailto:stefanie@windermere.com)



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