



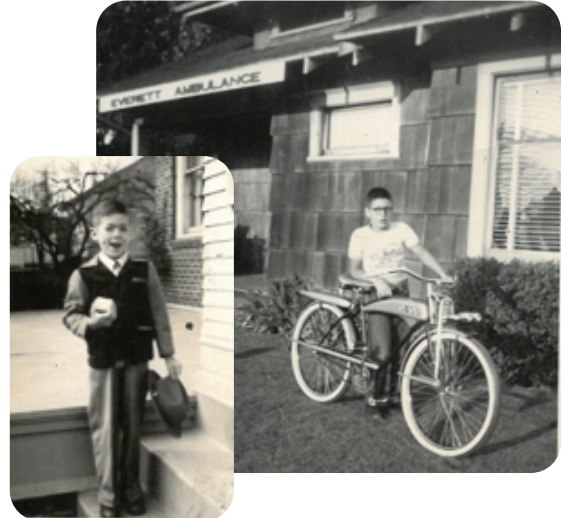
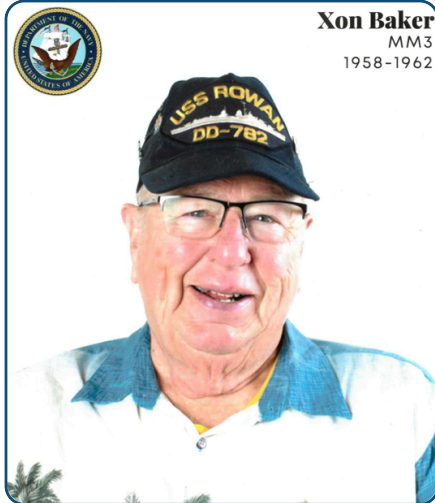
GIPSON GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE CARL GIPSON CENTER

MAY 2024 | MEMBER & PARTNER EDITION | VOL. 28

GIPSON SPOTLIGHT

Member
XON BAKER



Xon Baker has seen the dead. “Thousands of them,” he estimates.

Xon (pronounced “Zon”) drove ambulances and hearses for years, and his family’s business, Baker Ambulance, served as a kind of way station for bodies not yet laid to rest.

“We stored bodies in the basement, next to my JC Higgins bicycle. They were waiting: for next of kin to be notified, for their mode of dispensation -- where they were going next. Funeral home, cemetery, or someplace else. They were in black or dark green body bags on stretchers, up on sawhorses. Part of my job as a kid was to wash the body bags and the gloves, so we could reuse them. The County finally broke down and got us a refrigerator at one point, with two slots. You could fit two adults in there.”

Born in 1940, Xon grew up in a Wetmore apartment above a two-bay ambulance garage. After class at Jefferson Elementary, “I went to work. I washed ambulances, cleaned equipment, and did laundry.” At 25 cents an hour, Xon saved up enough for a Sear’s red and white JC Higgins bike. “I could ride wherever I wanted. I could go to Silver Lake. That bike gave me freedom.”

After South Junior High School on Rucker -- now Sequoia HS -- Xon attended Everett HS, and enjoyed Auto Shop and dances at the Y. After graduating in 1958 he joined the Navy, serving two years in San Diego and then two more based out of Pearl Harbor. His ship patrolled the Western Pacific. “We had a couple run-ins with Russian ships. And, the Navy keeps a ship between China and Taiwan, even today, and we were often stationed there to keep China from invading.”

In 1961 Xon joined the crew of the USS Whitehurst DE 643, a destroyer escort engaged in the Vietnam War. “We were running coastal patrols. Checking junks for military contraband. Resupplying the ground forces. We’d take ‘em 12 cases of Salem cigarettes and 12 cases of Camay soap, and they’d use those to barter.” Rising to the rank of Machinist’s Mate 3rd Class (MM3), Xon got out in ‘62 and came back home to Everett, back to the family business.

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His Father Ken had become Snohomish County Coroner, a part-time elected position in those years, and Xon jumped back into Baker Ambulances and became Deputy Coroner.

Then came April 16th, 1966, near the intersection of Everett Mall Way and Highway 99.

“There was an accident on Evergreen Way near Olivia Park. My Dad and 16-year-old brother Garth were responding on a temporary freeway, and got broadsided. When I got there, their ambulance was upside down. They were both dead. I cut them out of their seatbelts and pronounced them dead. I was the Deputy Coroner, you know? You gotta do what you gotta do.”

Despite the tragedy, Xon took over the family business with his brother Mark, and served two terms as County Coroner. They expanded the business into supplying medical gases to hospitals, clinics and dentists, and offering an answering service and dispatch center for hundreds of local businesses. Later in life, Xon taught kayaking through Everett Parks and operated a chair lift at Steven’s Pass. And one day in 1992 a friend introduced him to Suichin (pronounced Sue-Chin), originally from China but raised in Thailand. Suichin had immigrated to America eight years earlier, and within a couple years the pair married in Xon’s living room.



28 years later, Suichin is struggling with worsening memory issues and Xon serves as her primary caretaker. He brings her to the Center a few times each week. *“I like the exercise classes. My wife likes the Hula class. And, the dances. There would be a great loss if the Center were to close up again.”*

Xon leads our Veterans Support Group on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2-3pm and is a frequent presence on Tuesdays at Al-Anon (11am) and AA (1pm). You can catch Xon to talk about cars, the outdoors, or the Everett of years’ past. He’s an old soul who knows something about living and dying.




179

Free tax returns for low-income households, including seniors and immigrants, prepared by partner PIM Savvy at the Center, totaling over \$189,000 in refunds.



voaww.org/gipson-center

You may know: on Fridays the Gipson Center becomes a Welcome Center for newcomers to Snohomish County. First, in Fall of 2021, we began serving Afghans, most of whom were fleeing Kabul after it fell to the Taliban that summer.



From the Director

Later the need changed: to Ukrainians fleeing the war, no longer safe in their cities and small towns. We work with VOA's Housing & Refugee Resettlement team and other partners to provide case management, clothing, household goods, and connection to things that families need when they start over: rental assistance, employment help, medical and dental support, and a bridge to their local schools or preschools.

You can help, too. Below in the "Give Back" section you'll see a list of household goods that we'll provide to families new to our community. Consider buying something and dropping it off, to ease the path of families whose lives have been turned upside down. And, you can read this poem:

Refugees by Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
 So do not tell me
 These haggard faces could belong to you or me
 Should life have dealt a different hand
 We need to see them for who they really are
 Chancers and scroungers
 Layabouts and loungers
 With bombs up their sleeves
 Cut-throats and thieves
 They are not
 Welcome here
 We should make them
 Go back to where they came from
 They cannot
 Share our food
 Share our homes
 Share our countries
 Instead let us
 Build a wall to keep them out
 It is not okay to say
 These are people just like us
 A place should only belong to those who are born there
 Do not be so stupid to think that
 The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

See you at the Center,

Cory Armstrong-Hoss

NEW FOR MEMBERS



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE
University of Washington

Free Zoom Lecture:

Cybersecurity, AI and the Future

Speaker: David W. Aucsmith



Wednesday, May 1st
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Carl Gipson Center

This talk will cover the current state of cybersecurity addressing criminal and nation state activity, the use of artificial intelligence, and what the war in Ukraine has taught us about cyber warfare.

Free & open to the community

Carl's CINEMA

Come and see your favorite movies on our large screen in the Cascade View room.



Free for all members.

MAY 2024:

2nd - 80 for Brady (1:43)
9th - The Boys in The Boat (2:09)

16 - NO MOVIE
23 - Julie & Julia (2:08)
30 - A Man Called Otto (2:11)

Thursdays @ 12:00 PM

There will be at least one intermission during each movie

What movies you would like to see in the coming months? Please share your ideas at the Membership Services Desk.



JOIN OUR FREE Osteoporosis Group

AT THE CARL GIPSON CENTER | 3025 Lombard Ave, Everett

Registered Nurse Elaine Henderson will be leading discussions on Osteoporosis, how to maintain strong bones, and how to prevent fractures.

1st Thursday of the month | 12 - 1PM
Meetings begin May 2nd

QUESTIONS? Contact Activities Coordinator, Cora Koffski, at 425.818.2372 or ckoffski@voaww.org



COOKING CLASS



with Gul Subaykan

Bake fresh rolls & make homemade **STRAWBERRY FREEZER JAM** then take a jar of jam and rolls home for later!

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 5TH

1PM - 3:30PM

\$15 REGISTRATION

Sign up for the class at the front desk*

*Space is limited to 12 participants.



GIPSON EVENTS

CARL GIPSON CENTER

RED, WHITE & BLUE

BBQ

2024

11AM-1PM: LAUREN PETRIE LIVE
1PM-3PM COMMUNITY BINGO

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 26TH
11:00AM - 1:00 PM

NORTH COURTYARD
3025 LOMBARD AVE
EVERETT, WA 98201

RSVP REQUESTED BY JUNE 19TH

Brats
Potato Salad | Baked Beans
Iced Tea | Lemonade
Strawberry Shortcake

Free Kona Shaved Ice

JOIN US IN THE

4th of July

PARADE

Line up near Everett High School by 10:30am
(Parade route is approx 1.1 miles*)

**Marchers must be able to walk route or participate in motorized wheelchair.*

Sign up at the front desk by 5/31

First 100 members who register to march will receive free CGC t-shirt to wear in march

QUESTIONS? Contact Lucia Gallo at 425.818.2784 or lgallo@voaww.org

Senior Resource Fair

Sponsored by Molina

FREE

Free & open to all community members!
Join us and connect with local businesses and organizations that provide programs and services to seniors!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Registration can be done by calling 425-818-2784, stopping by the front desk, or online by visiting <https://bit.ly/srf2024>

Sack lunch provided with registration from 11:30AM - 12:30PM.

MAY 15
10AM - 2PM

Carl Gipson Center
3025 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98021

All ages welcome!

1st Annual Spring Tea

at the Carl Gipson Center | 3025 Lombard Ave

12 - 2PM SATURDAY MAY 18

Join us for a special afternoon of tea, sandwiches & tasty desserts!

\$10 for members | \$15 for non-members

QUESTIONS?
Activities Coordinator, Cora Koffski
425.818.2372 or ckoffski@voaww.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder

The Center will be closed
Monday, May 27, 2024, in
honor of Memorial Day



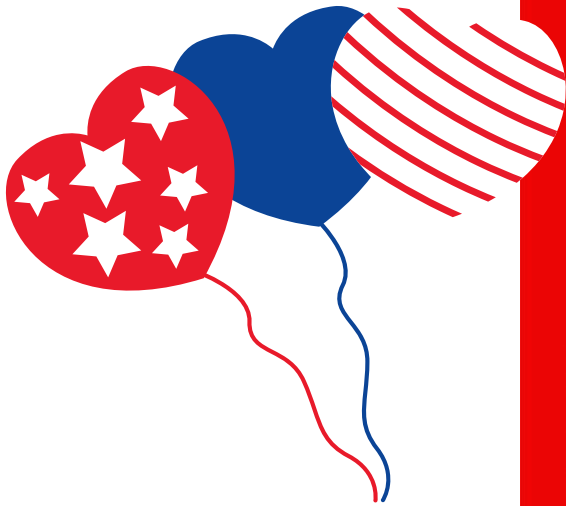
Lunch patrons can enter
Cascade View M-Th starting
at 11:15am. Please let our
10:30am exercise class finish
prior to entering our dining hall.

Please note

APRIL TRIPS



COMMUNITY
EVENTS



Kentucky Rain Band's 3rd Annual
ELVIS CHALLENGE
WHO WILL BE CROWNED
THE KING?

Elvis Tribute Artists
Wanted!

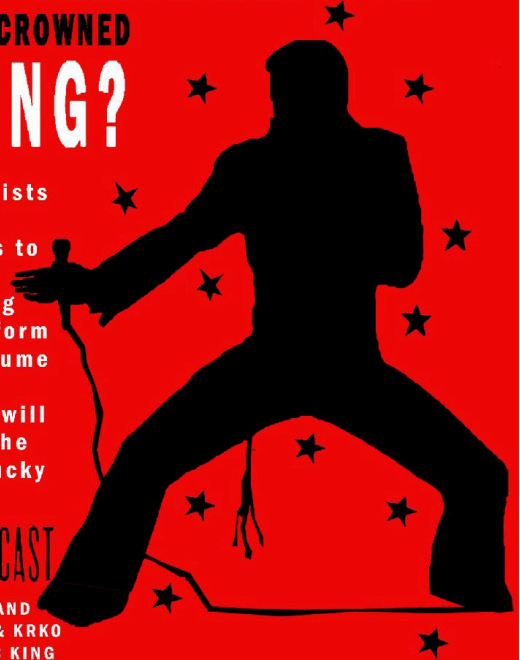
Cash and prizes to
the winner!

We are looking
for ETA's to perform
on stage in costume
at the HET!

All contestants will
be backed by the
legendary Kentucky
Rain Band!

WITH AN ALL STAR CAST

THE KENTUCKY RAIN BAND
HEIDI MAY FROM KXA & KRKO
NICK POLING THE 2023 KING
& MORE!



THE HISTORIC EVERETT THEATER
2911 COLBY AVE. EVERETT - WA

425-258-6766

FOR TICKETS & SIGNUPS VISIT: KRBELVISCHALLENGE.COM

SAT MAY 4, 2024

EVENING SHOW 7:30PM-10PM

AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE EVERETT GOSPEL MISSION



KENTUCKY RAIN BAND LLC 2024



SORTICULTURE

Everett's Garden Arts Festival

June 7 - 9, 2024

RESOURCES



Body and Brain has teamed up with **AARP** to offer monthly on-line wellness education. Classes are free and available to the public.

Sessions include:
Tai Chi for Joint Pain; Practices for Successful Aging; Breathing & Energy for Meditation for Self-Care; Exercises for Boosting Immunity

Program details on AARP webpage:
<https://states.aarp.org/new-york/boost-your-brain-and-body-with-insightful-workshops>



RAMPATHON®
APRIL-JULY 2024

Know someone in need of a free wheelchair ramp?

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH MAY 3



SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Providing eligible low-income older adults with fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers.



<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1002/Nutrition-Program>

GIVING BACK

Needed: Help With Facility Projects



Would you be interested in helping us paint, sand, stain, move items, or complete other projects? To keep our Center in great condition, we're in need of volunteer help. Interested? Contact:



Operations Manager: Gul Subaykan
gsubaykan@voaww.org | 425-818-2744

Give a fresh start

Donate Household Goods to Support Ukrainian Families

The Carl Gipson Center hosts a Welcome Center each Friday for families who have fled the war in Ukraine. In addition to our clothing closet, we provide household goods.



ITEMS NEEDED (NEW ONLY):

- Towels
- Sheets & blankets
- Bedding
- Cookware
- Dishes
- Silverware
- Electric teapots
- Diapers (varying sizes)

Donate items at the CARL GIPSON CENTER
3025 Lombard Ave, Everett

M - Th: 8:30am-5pm • F: 10am-12:30pm • Sat: 8:30am-3pm



Gipson Volunteer of the Month

Since the reopening of the center, Sharon has been dedicated to the Carl Gipson Center community.

Sharon is the chair of our Senior Advisory Committee and an active member of our Sustainability Committee. She brings fresh, new ideas, and has been very effective at introducing new members and donors to our Center

She is a friendly face around the center and welcomes new members.

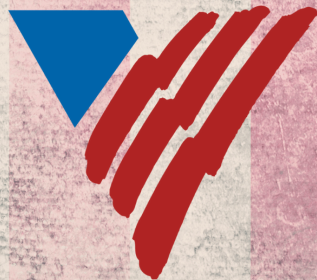
Thank you Sharon for everything that you do!



SHARON WELLMAN

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact our Operations Manager Gul to find out more.

Gul Subaykan
gsubaykan@voaww.org (425) 818-2744



CARL
GIPSON
CENTER

3025 Lombard Ave | Everett, WA 98201
(425) 818-2784 | www.voaww.org/gipson-center
M-Th: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM | Sat: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM



The Carl Gipson Center is sustained through funding from the City of Everett, Snohomish County Department of Human Services, foundations, corporations and individual donors