



GIPSON GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE CARL GIPSON CENTER

JUNE 2025 | MEMBER & PARTNER EDITION | VOL. 41

GIPSON SPOTLIGHT

Member
**JIM
HAGGLUND**



Jim Hagglund's 1974 Lake Stevens High School yearbook includes this note, written diagonally in red ink:

"Jim – Life isn't always the way we would like it to be, but that's what makes it so interesting. You have all the potential in the world Jim, but you must remember to allow for the human element."

-Mrs. Barbara O'Rourke (English Teacher & Guidance Counselor)

Jim was the oldest of three boys, and his Dad was a proud Captain for Washington State Ferries. Jim remembers long road trips with his family. *"My Dad had bought a used, white Datsun pickup. We three boys were in back under the canopy. There was a mattress in the back and we just laid on it. We read, colored, fought. When there's three boys, there's two on one all the time."*

The family moved to Langley so Jim's Dad could sleep at home when his ferry was tied up for the night. On the island, Jim began seeing a darker side of the human element. *"I often felt like I was going to throw up when I went to seventh grade at Langley Junior High."*

He remembers being an outsider, being bullied, a kid throwing him up against the chalkboard. He tried sports like football, and threw discus in track,, but *"... I had a heart condition that hadn't been diagnosed. Exercise brought on a racing*

pulse, shortness of breath, sharp pains in my neck." Later, doctors would diagnose Jim with Wolfe Parkinson White Syndrome, but back then it was one more thing that made him different.

When his parents' marriage broke apart, Jim's dad moved with the three boys back to Lake Stevens. Before the end of his junior year, Jim was elected president of the student body, and ASB sent Jim to a week-long leadership camp.

Jim had found something at Lake Stevens High: belonging and affirmation. He found people who cared about him and his future. His guidance counselor, Mr. Tutlis, knew Jim had the aptitude and drive for college, but no money. So, he encouraged Jim to apply for a four-year Army ROTC scholarship. That fall, he started his first of four years at Gonzaga University on the Army ROTC scholarship he received. *"I am forever grateful to the*

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taxpayers of the United States for paying my way through college."

Jim's ROTC commitment included Army service, and he reported for Officer Basic Course at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis in the summer of 1979. In September he was deployed to Panama. *"Three weeks after I got there was the treaty transition. I just remember being locked in the barracks for four days with armored personnel ready in case there were riots that broke out or an attack on the military."* Originally sent for two years, Jim extended twice, serving in Panama for a total of three years, three months, and three days.

While on leave, Jim became better acquainted with Lauri McDougall, who he'd met back in elementary school. After Jim returned to Fort Harrison, they'd exchange letters and cards. With a broadening smile he remembers: *"I'd stay up until after 11pm, because it was cheaper to call her then."* After Lauri returned from studying at Oxford, Jim proposed on July 29th, 1983, at the Eagle's Nest, a rotating restaurant in downtown Indianapolis. They'd marry on November 11th, at Lauri's parent's home in Everett, and welcome son Paul in 1988.

In the Army and in his career, one thing was constant: Jim loved technology. He loved to understand how new technology worked – loved how it made processes and people more efficient – and loved digging in to complex problems, and teaching others how things worked. He served for 37 years in business operations for Safeco and Liberty Mutual Insurance, managing countless software and hardware integrations and transitions, until retiring in April 2021.

In retirement, after his honey-do list ran out, he found himself asking *"What are you going to do*



where you have a purpose in life? That matches what your love of work was?" While touring the Gipson Center in September 2022, Jim saw a need for help at the Membership Desk. When our previous smartphone trainer left, he stepped in to offer Tech Help twice a month. Jim also assisted with last year's AV upgrade in Cascade View; helped another church partner learn our AV system; drives our mini-bus for trips; serves on our Senior Advisory Committee; and has co-lead the integration of new membership software with our Operations Director, Gul Subaykan.

We marvel at his infinite patience and ability to communicate. Jim gently explains how to text on a smartphone, over and over again. He listens intently to those who stop by the desk, eager to bend his ear about their bridge game or health problems. On Gipson Center trips to restaurants, museums or the outdoors, he makes his way to the slowest senior to walk alongside them.

The late Mrs. O'Rourke (1931-2008) would have been proud of Jim, not just for the number of things he does for others, but for how he does them. He doesn't just allow for the human element; he's built a life of service around it.

GIPSON IMPACT

\$515,963

Total amount in refunds achieved through 280 tax returns, processed for free at the Center in 2025, by partner PIM Savvy.



PIM SAVVY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CARL GIPSON CENTER



NEW FOR MEMBERS

Register For Trips Online

We still have openings for the following trips:

Lime Kiln Trail & Playa Bonita | 3 shoes | \$15

Azul Restaurant | 1 shoe | \$12

Duke's Seafood and Greenlake | 3 Shoes \$15



Everett Public Library @ Carl Gipson Center

Mondays 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Starting May 12th!

Services to Include: Library Card Sign-ups, e-Books (print & audio), Basic IT Support, Research Help, Book & Media Exchange, Seed Library, and more...



NEW FOR
EVERYONE!

Speaker SERIES

June Speakers

6/2 | Karen Crowley | League of Women Voters
of Snohomish County
6/9 | Liz Stenning | Downtown Everett Association
6/16 | Paula Rhyne | Everett City Council, District 2
6/23 | Mary-Jane Vujovic | Snohomish County
Human Services

MONDAYS

Homage Lunch Served at 11:30am
Speaker Begins at 11:45am

Open to all in the community.



GIPSON
EVENTS



Sign up to help!

We need help assisting with setup and breakdown for the big event. Tasks may include moving tables, lifting, stooping, and bending—nothing too heavy, but a bit of muscle helps! If you've got a little time to spare and don't mind light physical activity, we'd love your help. Thanks for pitching in to make the celebration a success!

See front desk to register for shifts you'd like to help with:

Day before event Setup: 3:00pm-4:00pm

Morning of event Setup: 8:30am-10:30am

Afternoon of event Breakdown: 1:00pm-3:00pm

CARL GIPSON CENTER

RED, WHITE & BLUE



11AM-12:30PM: LAUREN PETRIE LIVE
1PM-3PM COMMUNITY BINGO

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25TH 11:00AM - 1:00PM	NORTH COURTYARD 3025 LOMBARD AVE EVERETT, WA 98201
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RSVP REQUESTED BY JUNE 19TH

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



Free Kona Shaved Ice





Marchers will line up near Everett High School on 7/4/2025 by 10:30am.

Parade route is approx 1.1 miles. Marchers must be able to walk entire route or participate in motorized wheelchair.

Register online or at the front desk by May 31st to select your T-shirt size.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lucia Gallo at 425.818.2784 or lgallo@voaww.org

4th of July Parade Candy Donations & Volunteer Needed!

Candy Donations Needed!

Please consider donating **unopened, individually wrapped candy** to hand out to kids during the parade. Donations can be dropped off at the **Membership Desk**.

Volunteer Opportunity!

We're looking for **one volunteer to represent the Carl Gipson Center** on the Parade Committee. This person will also help with **day-of operations** such as staffing a barricade or helping organize parade entries as they arrive and walk.

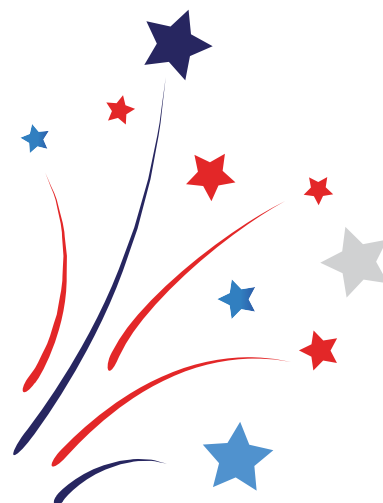
If you have any questions about the parade or would like to volunteer, please contact our Membership & Hospitality Specialist, Lucia Gallo, at lgallo@voaww.org, 425-818-2784, or stop by the front desk.

Carl Gipson Center Members & GOAL Students Root Beer Float Social



June 17 | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | Cascade View

Join us for a sweet treat and great company as we enjoy root beer floats together!

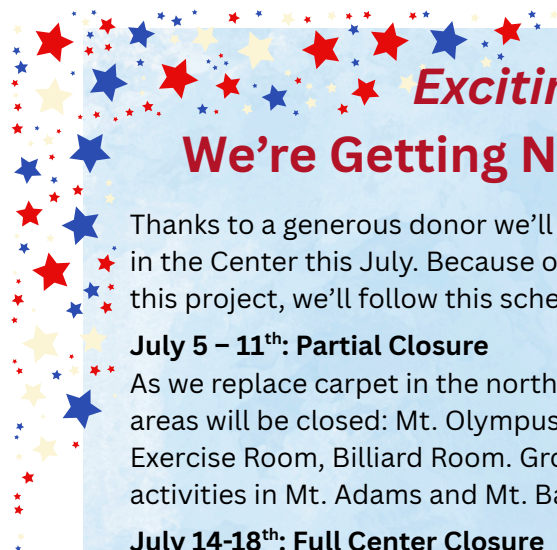


COMMUNITY
EVENTS

Sorticulture, Everett's Garden Festival, is the premier festival for garden art, local plants and flowers, and handmade outdoor products. From classical to whimsical, abstract to figurative, Sorticulture features fountains, trellises, iron and cement sculpture, found objects, mosaics and more! Come for garden classes featuring Ciscoe Morris on Sunday, June 8 at 1 p.m. at the Historic Everett Theatre and others throughout the weekend. There is also a full live music schedule and beer and wine garden hosted by Everett Music Initiative.

See All Everett Summer Events: <https://www.visiteverett.com/9/Events>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Exciting News:****We're Getting New Carpet in July!**

Thanks to a generous donor we'll be replacing the decades-old carpet in the Center this July. Because of the work necessary to complete this project, we'll follow this schedule in July:

July 5 – 11th: Partial Closure

As we replace carpet in the north section of our building, the following areas will be closed: Mt. Olympus, Mt. Baker/Mt. St Helens, Alcove, Exercise Room, Billiard Room. Group exercise classes, lunch, and activities in Mt. Adams and Mt. Baker will still continue.

July 14-18th: Full Center Closure

We'll spend this week replacing carpet in the lobby, ramp, downstairs foyer, offices and more. Center will be closed.

We need your help!

As we prepare to replace the carpet in our building, we're calling on volunteers to help us get ready for the big change! We need helping hands to pack, prep, and reset our spaces during upcoming volunteer work parties. Volunteers may be asked to bend, lift, and stoop while moving chairs and tables (up to 25 pounds).

See front desk to register for shifts you'd like to help with:

[6/26 1PM-4PM](#)

[6/27 1PM-4PM](#)

[7/1 1PM-4PM](#)

[7/2 1PM-4PM](#)

[7/18 9AM-5PM](#)

Thank you for being part of our amazing volunteer team—we couldn't do it without you!



Closed for Juneteenth

Please Note: We will be closed on Thursday, 6/19 in observance of Juneteenth. We'll resume normal business hours on Saturday, 6/21.



GOAL Student Promotion Ceremony

June 17 | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join us in celebrating our incredible GOAL students! They work hard all year long and are truly the heart of the Carl Gipson Center. While we're never quite ready to say goodbye for the summer, we couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments and excited for all that lies ahead.

All members are welcome to attend this special evening.



MAY HIGHLIGHTS



Courtyard Cleanup Tradition Continues!

Keeping up with tradition, our amazing GOAL Students, their teachers, Susan Devera, and our Director Cory rolled up their sleeves to clean up the courtyard and get it ready for the summer season.

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

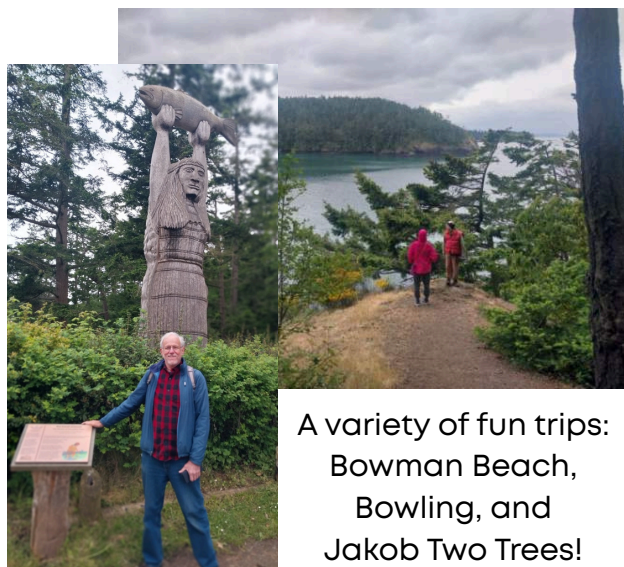


2025 Spring Tea

This year's Spring Tea was a beautiful day filled with delicious food, refreshing drinks, lovely music, and warm friendship. Guests enjoyed a truly relaxing afternoon, coming together to celebrate the season and each other.

A special thanks to our **Celebrations Committee, Everett High NJROTC, and Sultan Volunteers.**

You made this event truly wonderful!!!



A variety of fun trips:
Bowman Beach,
Bowling, and
Jakob Two Trees!



GIVING BACK

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact our Membership & Hospitality Specialist Lucia to find out more.

Lucia Gallo
lgallo@voaww.org
(425) 818-2784



Carl Gipson Center Volunteer of the Month

Barb joined the Carl Gipson Center in June 2023, initially participating in group exercise classes. You can often find her at the knitting table on Tuesdays and Thursdays, sharing laughs and stories with fellow members.

Before long, Barb began volunteering with our Talk Time Program, a weekly gathering on Fridays where non-native English speakers come together in Mt. Adams to practice conversational English.

With a consistent group of both volunteers and participants, Barb quickly became a valued presence.

Her warm, welcoming, and engaging nature has made a meaningful impact.

She has built genuine friendships within the group and continues to show up with kindness and encouragement.

Barb, you are an incredible asset to the Talk Time family. Thank you for sharing your time, heart, and energy.

Barb Cashen



*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



The IRS requires IRA and retirement account holders to take a **minimum required distribution** when they turn 73.

Those wanting to give to VOA can opt for a **qualified charitable distribution**, a tax free way to support seniors in Everett that counts towards your requirement.



Contact Cory Armstrong-Hoss at (425) 818-2785
 or carmstrong@voaww.org to get started.

MESSAGE

Cora Koffski
Activities
Coordinator

**Dear Carl Gipson Center Family,**

As I prepare to step into a new chapter, I want to take a moment to reflect and express my deepest gratitude to all of you and share just how much this community has meant to me.

Working at Carl Gipson Center has been so much more than a job; it has been a truly meaningful part of my life. I've been lucky to be surrounded by incredible coworkers who are also treasured friends. Whose laughter, support, and camaraderie have brightened even the busiest days. I will miss Gul, Lucia, Cory, Suzi and the special moments we've shared more than I can say.

When we reopened the Carl Gipson Center after the long closure during COVID-19, we weren't sure what to expect. Together, we started from a quiet space and slowly filled it with life again: with conversation, music, movement and connection. I am grateful I was able to play a part in reimagining this extraordinary community. I'm proud of the programs we created and the events we brought to life, but what has touched me most has been watching you bring the heart back into this place.

I will miss the warm, enthusiastic greetings from the GOAL students and staff each morning. I will miss the energy and inspiration I receive daily from our dedicated group exercise class participants. It warms my heart to see the friendships that have developed while sweating to the oldies together! I will miss the laughter shared with my colleagues, and the way they affectionately welcomed my children when I brought them to Carl Gipson Center. My daughter told me today she still REALLY wants to work here when she is old enough to get a job! I'm excited about what lies ahead for my family and I, but this place, and the people in it, will always hold a special place in my heart.

One of the most inspiring parts of my time here has been witnessing the dedication of our volunteers. Their time, energy, and unwavering commitment are what keep our doors open and our programs running. Whether they're helping at the membership desk, leading a day trip, or facilitating a group, their selflessness is the quiet force behind so much of what makes this center thrive. It's a kind of behind-the-scenes magic that deserves more recognition than I could ever give in one letter.

Thank you for trusting me, supporting me, and for reminding me daily why community matters. Carl Gipson Center is truly a remarkable place, not because of any one person, but because of all of you; your kindness, your wisdom, and your willingness to show up for one another. I have no doubt that the amazing work happening here will continue to grow and thrive.

With love and appreciation,

Cora Koffski

Come Celebrate Cora!

Join us as we honor Cora's incredible time with us and send her off with best wishes for her exciting next chapter.

On **Wednesday, June 4th**, we'll be having **cake and punch** in **Cascade View** from **1:00 PM to 2:00 PM**.

We hope to see everyone there!



CARL
GIPSON
CENTER

3025 Lombard Ave | Everett, WA 98201
(425) 818-2784 | www.voawww.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