



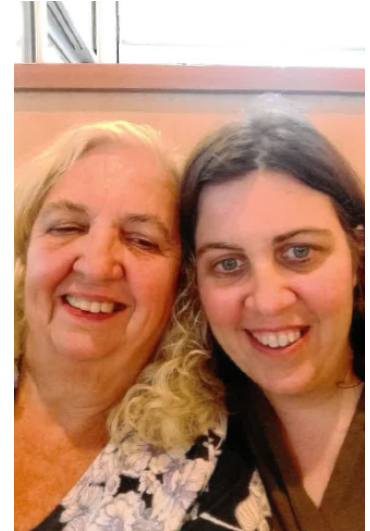
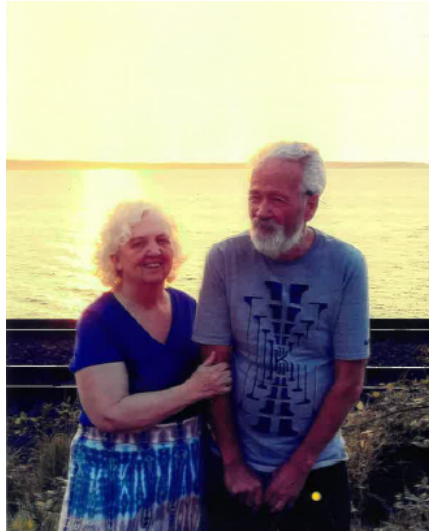
# GIPSON GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE CARL GIPSON CENTER

DECEMBER 2022 | MEMBER & PARTNER EDITION | VOL. 11

## GIPSON SPOTLIGHT

Member  
**PATRICIA  
COOK**



*“Almost a week after Don passed away, my friend Lorraine said, ‘You’re coming to church with me.’ Then in March, she said ‘I want you to come as my guest to the Carl Gipson Center.’”*

*“I was sitting at home thinking, ‘What am I going to do?’ But coming here, I felt like I was coming back home.”*

**PATRICIA COOK** has been looking for “home” for a very long time.

Born in Nicholson, Pennsylvania, about 20 miles north of Scranton, she was raised in Factoryville, the first child of Earl and Gladys Williams. Her father was a professional chef, a rolling stone, and at 10 months old Patricia moved with her parents to Miami so he could cook in a high-class restaurant. She was a “daddy’s girl,” and walked on the beach and played in the sand, until Earl moved them again: this time back to Factoryville, then up near a restaurant in Hillburn, New York, in the Catskills Mountains.

By then, her brother John Michael had arrived and the years started bringing new siblings –

Diane Marie, Karen Jane, Donald Gary – and new towns, like Old Forge, New York, in the Adirondacks. “We loved that place: skiing, sleigh riding, playing at the beach.” But cracks were forming, chasms between what Earl wanted and what Gladys needed. “The day after Karen was born, we were evicted from our house.” Gladys and the kids moved back to the family farm in Pennsylvania, and Earl left when Patricia was eight.

*“As a teen I was very independent. Kind of angry. Anything I wanted to do, I’d do it. I wanted to go to majorette lessons, but my Mom couldn’t drive me. So, we painted an old bicycle and I rode five miles into town for those lessons.” Patricia hated Lackawanna Trail High School – “I was bored, not challenged at all” – and a couple years after graduating connected with an Air Force recruiter in Scranton. Within six weeks, she’d started Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, then was transferred to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. “They put this Yankee girl in the heart of Dixie, four years after the Civil Rights movement.”*

*continued on page 2*

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Patricia thought she'd pursue a military career, and hadn't planned on meeting Dwight Goggans. *"At the end my first year, within one week I got promoted to Airman 1st Class, I got orders to Thailand, and I got pregnant."* Little Eric arrived on November 27th, 1970, followed by Jill on April 30th, 1973. Dwight was a career Air Force man, a fuel specialist, and his orders took them to South Carolina, Italy, Delaware, Puerto Rico, Okinawa, Alabama and Florida. Patricia found ways to help on base: as a kindergarten teacher, running the library, helping the school counselors.

Like her father, Patricia kept looking for something in the distance, some place to call home. She and Dwight separated after 22 years, and she made a decision: it was time for her to go back to college. At 49, after attending four different universities over the years, she graduated with a degree in Psychology. In 2000 she moved to Port Townsend, Washington, to be closer to Jill and her kids, and worked at Skookum, helping adults with disabilities as a Job Coach and Developer.

One night in 2004, she said to Jill, *"Let's go have*

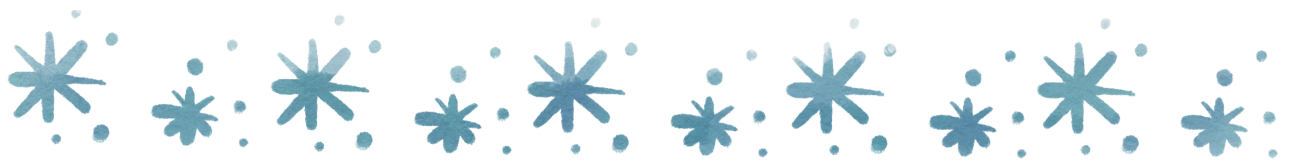
*a drink at The Surf,"* a bar on Taylor Street down on the waterfront.

Patricia saw a tall, handsome man at the bar drinking ice water and asked him to dance. *"You're the shortest woman I've ever danced with,"* said Don Cook.

Don was a widower, a commercial fisherman, a boat builder, spending months at a time in Alaska. After years in Sitka, Patricia wanted to marry or pack her bags. Don wouldn't let her go. *"I really don't know what love is, but I know I want to get married to you."* They had some good years together, in Alaska and Florida, traveling in their 5th wheel, until Don passed on January 15th, 2022.

Patricia's found a home here at the Gipson Center. You can find her here four or five days a week, volunteering, creating art, playing table tennis, or supporting fellow veterans at the monthly Heroes' Café.

*"If you feel lonely, or you want to meet friends or do something, it's great. There's so much to do here. It's like my second home."*



## **GIVE THE GIFT OF GIPSON**

*Donations help us ensure that everyone can become a member and participate in center activities.*

**[vow.org/donate](https://vow.org/donate)**

COMMUNITY  
EVENTS



## WINTERTIDE FESTIVAL at the Gipson Center

Live Music | Holiday Bazaar | Santa | Crafts For Kids  
Concessions | Bingo | And More!

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**SATURDAY, DEC 3 | 10AM-5PM**  
**SUNDAY, DEC 4 | 10AM-3PM**

3025 Lombard Ave, Everett, WA 98201 | 425.818.2784

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[voaww.org/gipson-center](http://voaww.org/gipson-center)

 **CARL GIPSON CENTER**

**PARTICIPATING PARTNERS:**  
Participating Partners:  
Hand In Hand | City of Everett | Schack Arts Center |  
Homage | Salvation Army | Imagine Childrens Museum



## Wintertide Bingo

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD**  
Sales open @ 3pm | Games @ 3:30pm  
5-Game Packs: \$5.00  
Specials: \$4.00  
Hot Seat Prizes  
Concessions Available



## Holiday Feast

Provided By the  
Everett Police Officers Association

*Free & Open To Seniors &  
Those In Need Of A Meal*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH**  
SERVINGS AT 12PM AND 2PM  
MUST SIGN-UP PRIOR IN PERSON OR VIA PHONE



CARL GIPSON CENTER  
3025 LOMBARD AVE  
EVERETT, WA 98201  
(425) 818 2784  
[VOAWW.ORG](http://VOAWW.ORG)





## November: A Month of Gratitude

On Friday, November 11th, our Center ran a **2022 Veterans Day + USO Dance**. Thank you to Naval Station Everett, Lake Stevens Mayor Brett Gailey, Heroes' Cafe founder Gary Walederman, Everett High School's JROTC program and Route 66 Big Band for a wonderful event.

### GRATEFUL

On Sunday, November 20th, the Everett Firefighters Association provided 50 volunteers and donated all the food to serve 275 meals to the greater Everett Community.

Thank you Everett Firefighters for the **2022 Thanksgiving Feast!**



*Thank  
you!*





NEW FOR  
MEMBERS



MUSIC AT GIPSON

# CALLING ALL SINGERS

**GIPSON SINGERS**

WEDNESDAYS, 1-2PM  
BEGINNING ON  
DECEMBER 7TH  
PIANO BY  
HAZEL JOHNSON



**NEW! IN CASCADE VIEW**



**2023 Parking Passes**  
now available to current  
members.  
Pick yours up today at our  
Member Services Desk.



*Note:* Diamond Parking begins patrolling the Carl Gipson Center parking garage on December 1st. Please make sure to display your Gipson Parking Pass during our operating hours, and consider using our garage for paid parking if you visit downtown in the evenings or Sundays.

NEWS AND  
NOTABLE

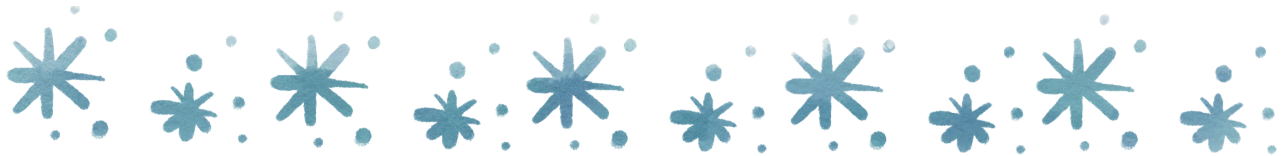
### 2023 Membership Changes

Beginning in December 2022 the Carl Gipson Center is making a few changes to our Membership options. We're introducing two choices: Regular Membership & All Access Membership.

Members who participate in Table Tennis and Group Exercise Classes in Cascade View will need an All Access Membership, and will receive other benefits.

2023 will be a transition year for existing members, who will be asked to choose one Membership type when their current membership expires. New members will be offered the choice beginning on December 1st, 2022.

Financial assistance is available for both types of Membership.



#### **New Policy:**

**Please note that carts, garbage bags and bags larger than a backpack are prohibited at the Carl Gipson Center effective immediately, except for those bringing in program, activity or event supplies or instruments.**



## Gipson Volunteer of the Month

Several times a week you can find Joyce whipping up lunches and serving those meals to our seniors. Joyce has been a volunteer at Gipson for over 15 years. Before she was a volunteer, she was the head chef at Gipson for Homage.

Joyce is always a joy to be around. She is kind and generous with the time she dedicates to the center. She is willing to take on any task that is asked of her.

Thanks for all you do!

**JOYCE  
CLARK**



## Volunteers Needed Adults 55+



**Mentor children in  
non-profit settings**

Learn more:  
(425)514-3188



**Become a friend  
to a senior**

Learn more:  
(425)355-1138



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

**Gul Subaykan**

[gsubaykan@voaww.org](mailto:gsubaykan@voaww.org) (425) 818-2744



*If you are struggling,  
you don't have to do it alone.*

**Native and Strong  
Lifeline  
is here for you.**

Call 988 and choose option 4.

Calls are answered by trained crisis counselors who are Tribal members and descendants with close ties to their community.



Native and Strong Lifeline logo artist: Jason LaClair, Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe

## NEED HELP FINDING HOUSING OR EMPLOYMENT?

**Volunteers of America Western  
Washington might be able to help!**

If you qualify, we will work with you to help find and maintain a job and support stable, independent housing.

For details, call **425.212.3992**





**2802 Broadway | Everett, WA 98201**  
**(425) 818-2784 | [www.voaww.org/gipson-center](http://www.voaww.org/gipson-center)**  
**M-Th: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM | Sat: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

