



GIPSON GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE CARL GIPSON CENTER

OCTOBER 2022 | MEMBER & PARTNER EDITION | VOL. 09

GIPSON SPOTLIGHT

Member
**CLAYTON
OLSEN**



Left: 2022; Center: With siblings on the Stanwood farm - (LtoR) Clayton, Dorine, little Virginia, & Robert; Stanwood HS Year Book 1946; WSC Intramural Boxing Team (Clayton standing 2nd from right); Right: Clayton & Joann

When **CLAYTON OLSEN** walked into the WSC – now WSU -- Student Union Building in January of 1951, he was not the campus Romeo. *“I’d had very few dates during my Freshman, Sophomore and Junior years,”* says the affable 94-year-old. Tall, handsome and strong – but shy around people – the farmboy who grew up milking cows near Stanwood was a natural athlete, skilled at basketball and boxing, and had recently taken dance classes.

Shortly after Clayton and his friends arrived, *“...several girls walked in together, and my friend Phil spotted this good-looking gal and immediately asked her to dance.”* Clayton played the role of wingman, dancing with one of the gal’s friends until the song was over. When Phil asked the gal if she wanted to dance to another song, *“No,”* replied Joann Wilham, *“I’d like to dance with that person,”* and she pointed at Clayton. Joann and

Clayton danced for the rest of the night, and afterward the kid nicknamed “Bashful Boy” couldn’t get enough of the spirited girl from West Seattle. At Senior Prom that Spring they danced to “When The Saints Go Marching In” and other hits from the Louis Armstrong Trumpet Band, playing live in Pullman.

Seven months later on August 10th, 1951, *“...come a letter from Uncle Sam, saying I was drafted.”* Clayton had already served in the Marine Corps, but his country needed him again, this time in the Army for the Korean War. He reported for duty, and then during a week off came back home and married Joann on September 28th before being deployed to Tokyo. Just over nine months later, on July 6th, 1952, Joann welcomed their first child, a baby boy. While on a collect call from Tokyo with her husband they decided to name him Ronald. Corporal Olsen’s service ended in

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August 1953, when Clayton and his new family returned to WSC for a 5th year of studies.

After settling in Everett, Joann and Clayton had two more kids, Leslie and Kristine, and Clayton was hired by Scott Paper Company's NW Operation, which included timber resources and pulp and paper manufacturing and converting. If you bought paper towels, facial tissue or toilet paper in the second half of the 20th century, there's a good chance they were made by Clayton's company.

He began as an entry level Accountant, and over the next 35 years Clayton rose through the ranks, becoming Financial Controller. Meanwhile, Clayton found ways to give back, in leadership roles in Central Lutheran Church, Northwest Washington Synod, and the Salvation Army. After retirement, Joann and Clayton traveled throughout the US, Europe and the Middle East, and enjoyed visiting Norway to see extended family.

The last couple of years were tough on Clayton. Joann passed away on October 31st, 2020, at 88 years old, after 69 years of marriage. Like most seniors, Clayton stayed in during the pandemic. He was concerned about COVID, and the places he'd usually go to see his friends, workout, or worship were all closed.

Clayton heard about the Gipson Center reopening, joined in January, and comes most weekdays. *"This is a wonderful group. [Activities Coordinator] Cora is a great person, very friendly. She took a real interest in me. And, you start meeting other people."*

"That interaction is why I come back."

To see if you can keep up with Clayton, visit our Forever Fit class at 9:30am Monday through Thursday. Or, join us on a date near February 24th, 2023, when his friends from the Gipson Center will wish the kind farmboy from Stanwood a happy 95th birthday.

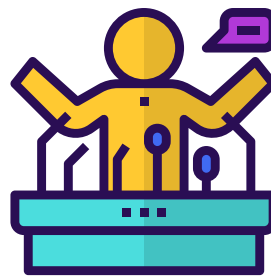


September's Disco Bingo: We Saw Fun, Fashion & Bingo for All Ages!



SPEAKERS
SERIES

This Fall the Carl Gipson Center is partnering with Snohomish County Auditor Garth Fell to provide a forum for candidates who advanced past the August Primary Election to speak to the community. We invited 12 candidates, regardless of party, to speak as a part of our Wednesday Speaker Series.



Please note:
VOAWW and the Carl Gipson Center
does not endorse or support the
campaign or views of candidates.

Speaker Series: October 2022 *Candidate Speakers*

10/5 | GARY KEMP

Candidate for Leg. Dist. 38, State Rep. Pos 1

10/10 | RICK LARSEN

Candidate for US Representative,
2nd Congressional District

10/12 | MARY FOSSE

Candidate for Leg. Dist. 38, State Rep. Pos 2

10/19 | JUNE ROBINSON

Candidate for Leg. Dist. 38, State Senator

10/26 | JASON CUMMINGS

Candidate for Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney



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Questions?

Contact Cory Armstrong-Hoss, Director
(425) 818-2785 | carmstrong@voaww.org

Lunch at 11:30 | Speaker at 11:45am

voaww.org/gipson-center

NEW FOR
MEMBERS

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

FREE VETERANS PHOTO PORTRAITS BY VOAWW

10/10: 9am-1pm

10/20: 10am-2pm

Sign Up Required



We invite all veterans to come to the Carl Gipson Center for a free photo portrait by VOAWW Marketing & Communications Director Maca Ferguson.

Portraits will be available for pick-up starting on 11/11/2022. We request that veterans provide permission for VOA to use portraits for our 2022 Veterans Day celebration. To sign up, visit the Member Services Desk at the Center.



Driver Safety Course

This course teaches proven driving techniques to keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. You may also be eligible for a discount on your auto insurance.

\$20 for AARP members

\$25 for non-members

Payment collected first day of class.

Please pre-register at Member Services.



Thursday 11/3 and Friday 11/4

9AM - 2:00PM | Carl Gipson Center

**Proof of vaccination required to attend course.*

Lunches are paid separately by participant unless otherwise noted. For more information and to sign up for Gipson trips, please visit Member Services desk or call (425) 818-2784 for details.

GIPSON TRIPS

McAuliffe's Nursery and Jake's Cafe

Wednesday, October 19th
12:00-3:30PM

Enjoy the gorgeous colors of Fall at McAuliffe's Nursery, located in the scenic Snohomish Valley.

\$10 for transportation.



Questions?

Contact Activities Coordinator Cora Koffski

SHIBA OPEN ENROLLMENT APPOINTMENTS AT CARL GIPSON CENTER

Thursday, October 20th: 9AM-4PM

Meet with a SHIBA advisor free of charge during Medicare Open Enrollment. The advisor will assist you in navigating Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans.



Call 425-290-1276 or email
shibasno.oe@gmail.com to schedule

HALLOWEEN BINGO & COSTUME CONTEST

FEATURING PERFORMANCE
BY KAMIAK HIGH SCHOOL
DANCE TEAM

OCT. 15TH | \$10.00
PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME
FOOD & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

VOAWW.ORG/GIPSON-CENTER



Join us on October 15th, 4-7:30PM, for Halloween Bingo!
All ages are welcome, and attendees do not need to be members.
Concessions available for purchase, including pizza, hot dogs,
chicken salad sandwiches soda & more.
\$10 admission Fee can be paid by cash or card.
Cash only accepted for Bingo 5-Game packs and Specials.



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VETERANS DAY



CELEBRATION & USO DANCE

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

1:00pm

Free Program
Open To All
Community
Members

2-5:00pm

USO Dance | \$5.00
Featuring Route 66
Cake, Coffee &
Refreshments



11.11.2022

3025 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98201
voaww.org/gipson-center



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PROGRAM
HIGHLIGHT

YOGA STRETCH

Increase flexibility, balance and range of motion as you move through a series of seated and standing yoga poses. Chair support is utilized.

**Monday &
Wednesday
10:30-11:15AM**



Please note:

Formerly the "Pandemic Blues" group, the *Aging and Transitions Group* will be paused temporarily while we search for a new volunteer facilitator. This group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 10:30-11:30AM. *Interested in facilitating?* Contact Activities Coordinator Cora Koffski at ckoffski@voaww.org or (425)818-2372.

Gipson Volunteer of the Month

Kitty has been volunteering at the Carl Gipson Center since 2018. She leads numerous activities, including Knit Wits, Hand & Foot, and Pinochle. With all of the activities she leads, she adds to all of the wonderful activity options for members.

On Mondays, you can also find Kitty selling concessions for the member bingo.

Kitty is an irreplaceable volunteer!

**KITTY
LINGAFELTER**



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join us!

We need help with:

- **Bingo Support** (Mondays & Monthly Community Bingo)
- **Activity Leadership**
- **Membership Services**



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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



GIVE THE GIFT OF GIPSON

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

vow.org/donate



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

