“Bringing the cows home was the best part,” says Connie Young of the farm she grew up on near Issaquah. “They might be all the way on the back 40 acres by the woods, and somebody had to go get them.”

On that 80-acre farm Connie would feed calves, clean the barn, and harvest and freeze vegetables from the huge garden. “In the winter, you’d smell Daddy’s pipe smoke and the whole barn was warm from the heat of the animals. It was pleasant – cozy – with all those living things.” In the summer, the older boys from the neighborhood would come over to help her Dad load hay in his big truck.

The third child of Hector and Florence, Connie was 11 years younger than Jim and even farther apart from the oldest, Sheila. Tending toward introversion, she’d read Readers Digest condensed books and explore their land. “I used to go down to the creek and pick up interesting looking rocks, and would come home with a pocket full of them.” In 6th grade at May Valley Elementary, she got to be the Lunch Cart Girl. “It was a big deal. We got to push the carts from the kitchen to get all the hot lunches to the classrooms.”

Issaquah Junior High led to Issaquah High, where Connie joined the girls’ service club and sang in choir. She didn’t want to leave home after graduation, and studied for a couple years at Bellevue Community College before transferring to Central Washington University in Ellensburg. She ended with a triple major in Social Sciences, encompassing Sociology, Psychology and Cultural Anthropology. In 1979 Connie married Curtis Young, a manager with the WA State Fish and Wildlife division. In 1981 they welcomed Morgan to their family, and in 1992 they bought a home in Snohomish with a view of the mountains.

In 2004 Curt & Connie discovered the Gipson Center, studying Tai Chi with Master Zhou.

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Connie soon joined the Hula class, and after retiring from 30 years at DSHS in 2005, she spent more time in motion at the Center.

In 2008 Curt was diagnosed with terminal Melanoma and given seven months to live. He outlasted the doctor’s prognosis by seven years, passing away on February 29th, 2016.

During Curt’s challenges and after he died, Connie kept coming to the Center. When no one stepped forward to lead Hula, she decided she would. She did her best during the pandemic, getting the group together outside at Forest Park, but jumped at the chance to return to the Center after it reopened in January of 2022. She’s been a consistent presence ever since, teaching Hula on Thursdays from 1 to 2pm. She loves it: "It’s got a flow, like Tai Chi. It can be very meditative."

Connie enjoys coming to the Center each week and is happy to see it coming alive again. "I’m just glad that you guys took over. That you persevere."

To see a performance of Connie’s Hula Dancers, join us for the Gipson Center’s 1st Annual Luau on Saturday, August 26th, out on our North Courtyard. Her Hula group will perform at 11:30am and again at 1pm.
I am usually thinking about the past or the future.

We were going through some files this past week, to clear out space for a new partner, when I came across photos and newspaper articles from the 1960s. I learned that Everett’s first senior Center was at 2921 Rockefeller, on a floor below a dance hall. The Center later moved to the Everett School District’s Longfellow Building in 1971.

Later, I came across a faded, orange tri-fold program for the Everett Senior Center dedication ceremony for our current location on August 30th, 1978, at 10am. The program included an invocation by Sister Mary Doreen, songs by the Golden Aires, and remarks by Carl Gipson, William Moore (Mayor of Everett), and US Senator Henry Jackson, among others. Nearby was a wooden-backed plaque in honor of Paul Ohlund (1919-1995) stating that: “The staff and seniors of the Everett Senior Activity Center extend our heartfelt WELCOME to all those who enter our door.”

I hope that our staff, nearly 100 volunteers, and members live up to those words. I hope that we are good stewards of this Center, paying respect to the past and finding ways to push forward, to keep the center alive and vibrant.

One other thing I found this week: an undated “Senior Activity Center” van photo, which appeared in a box three days after we recognized the Everett Senior Center Foundation and Carl Gipson Center Foundation for contributing over $145,000 to fund a new vehicle for our community. We have come a long way.

See you at the Center,

Cory Armstrong-Hoss
Two Foundations Make Gipson Trips Accessible

Paul Miller of the Everett Senior Center Foundation (2nd from right) and Gretchen Jamieson, Brenda Bacon and Carlton “Skip” Gipson (L to R) from the Carl Gipson Senior Center Foundation celebrated the purchase of a 15-passenger shuttle bus with wheelchair lift for the Carl Gipson Center on Monday, July 24th. The two foundations contributed over $145,000 to fund the purchase of the bus for our Center and make trips more accessible to seniors.
**Meaningful Day**, the art, music and nature program focused on people with developmental disabilities, will return to the Center on Tuesdays from 9am-12pm, beginning on August 21st.

**No Bingo on Monday, August 28th.** Because of our Luau and Beach Bingo on Saturday, 8/26, we will not offer regular Member Bingo on 8/28.

**Genealogy Club** is on hiatus and will reconvene in October.

**For those eating the Homage meal** in the Center: we ask that you use trays and not to-go clamshells, in order to save our to-go supplies.

**The Center will be closed on Monday, September 4th**, in honor of Labor Day.
Fun times at Snohomish Mini-Golf and Spada Farmhouse on July 26th! Cory skillfully drove us there and back in the new CGC van – and Gul tried mini-golf for the very first time!

ART CLASSES

taught by Mara Thornton from Schack Art Center

Each Wednesday in September (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th) 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Fee is $65 per person
Space is limited

THE Evergreen STATE FAIR PARK MONROE WA

Thursday, August 31st
11:30 AM - 4:00 PM
$20 (Includes Fair Ticket)

Join us for a fun-filled BUS TRIP to the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe!
Get ready to experience delicious fair food, dozens of booths, adorable animals and so much more!
New 3-Workshop Series starting in September!

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

Advance care planning ensures your goals, values and preferences are known, not only at the end of life, but if you become unable to communicate those desires due to illness or injury. Participants will learn about:

- Advance Directives
- Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
- POLST (Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment)

All documents are provided free of charge.

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.
Carl Gipson Center, 3025 Lombard Ave, Everett

Hospice of the Northwest • www.HospiceNW.org • 360-814-5550

Sign up at CGC Member Services Desk
Free and Open to the Community

Protecting Yourself from Payment Scams in the Virtual World

NCOA has partnered with Zelle® to empower older adults and caregivers with knowledge on spotting and avoiding payment scams.

In this webinar, participants will be able to:
1. Get tips to protect themselves and their money.
2. Identify payment scams and keep their money secure.
3. Discuss ways to keep older adults safe from payment scams and how caregivers can help.

Speakers:

Genevieve Waterman
Director, Corporate Partnerships & Engagement
NCOA

Crystal Thomas
Vice President of Brand and Marketing
Zelle® at Early Warning

Website registration: connect.ncoa.org
In the "For Older Adults" section
Gipson Volunteer of the Month

We were thrilled when Doris McCarthy agreed to take over the role of Ceramics instructor at Carl Gipson Center. Since she took over the program in May, she has spent countless hours organizing paints, glasses, and greenware, and making Mt. Adams room look great.

Doris is not only knowledgeable about ceramics, but she is also caring, patient, and a pleasure to be around.

We are so happy Doris has joined our volunteer team!

Thank you for everything you do!

DORIS MCCARTHY

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

Partner with the Gipson Center to promote your business.
Check out our Sponsorship Opportunities.

Contact the Director for more information
Cory Armstrong-Hoss
carmstrong@voaww.org (425)-818-2785
The Carl Gipson Center is sustained through funding from the City of Everett, Snohomish County Department of Human Services, foundations, corporations and individual donors.