In retrospect, my childhood life until 1950, before we moved to Guayaquil, was very chaotic and without a permanent home. I don’t remember any adult that I could have used as a role model, and we moved from location to location so frequently, that regretfully I didn’t make any long-lasting friendships. We moved so often that I missed some basic schooling. It wasn’t until sixth grade elementary that I attended a regular classroom school.

VACATIONS IN THE JUNGLE

I was invited to spend many summer vacations with the Kubes family at their farm in the jungle. The family was comprised of Tío Florin Kubes, the uncle; Vilem and Maria Kubes, the parents; and their three children Villy, Roberto and Libor. Mr. and Mrs. Kubes were very heavy smokers. When in their kitchen or living room, they would share a cigarette by Mr. Kubes breaking it in half, lighting it and giving half to his wife. [These vacations were a] relief from boredom in town and it was a real highlight in my life.

My first vacation, while I was maybe 12 or 13 years old, started with Mr. Kubes picking me up in Quito and driving us most of the way in a pickup truck and, on the last leg of the journey, for about six hours, we rode on horseback. At that time the road to accommodate vehicles was not built all the way to the farm. The equipment for the two lumber mills, the distillery, the furniture and the building materials situated at the farm had been transported there on mule back.

We spent most of the time barefoot, enjoying the wonderful warm weather, with a lot of rain, swimming in the warm river, catching snakes
and beautiful butterflies and chewing on sugar cane. I fondly remember eating and living among this very warm family. As kids, we always left the house early in the day and came back at dusk. If we did not get the chance to ride the horse-drawn coach, we walked all over the farm. We visited the sawmill, the distillery, and, at times, we walked with the farm workers to the fields to harvest sugar cane. We ate fresh homemade bread, goose and garlic spread on top of bread which was toasted on a grill on top of the wood stove.

Two lemon trees provided a continual supply of juice for thirsty kids and adults. This is where I learned about how they grow coffee, cacao and lemons on trees and bananas on palm trees.

On very special occasions, Mr. Kubes would take a stick of dynamite, and after we’d hidden for safety, he’d light the stick and throw it in one of the deep pools of the river, and after it had detonated, we would all dive to gather the stunned fish.

What every boy dreamed of, happened to us. One of us always carried a machete for safety, and we used this tool to cut and clean the sugar cane to chew, and to cut roots that hung from very tall trees so that we could use them as swings. We did this like Tarzan from the movies.

During this time, I had a girlfriend named Viktoria who lived in the city in Quito. She went to school during the day and I could only see her in the evenings, however, the disadvantage was that I lived by the airport and the buses stopped running at 8 pm. This meant that I had to walk six miles home in the evenings after seeing her. That was dedication.

**Like his late father Viktor, George Beykovsky is an avid Bridge player and co-leads Duplicate Bridge at the Carl Gipson Center. George lived in Ecuador for 18 years before immigrating to the United States in 1957. He worked for Western Gear for 20 years as a machinist, and retired working as an inspector for Boeing in 1987. After retiring he served as a Spanish/English interpreter certified by DSHS until last year.**
This building is alive with stories.

The story of Carl Gipson, which I learned from his sons Skip and Ron. The story of a City taking care of its people, with a dedicated center for seniors opening in 1978. The story of the next chapter of the Center, with our VOA team supporting volunteers and new partners and programs.

I’m blessed to hear stories from members like George Beykovsky, who we’ve featured in a two-part profile. A spry 91-year-old with a hint of mischief in his eyes, George overcame an interrupted childhood, a mercurial father, and the deaths of his relatives in Nazi camps to become a dedicated father and a committed community volunteer.

If I haven’t yet, I would be honored to hear your stories. Feel free to reach out or stop by. In the meantime, check out our summer programs and events and reserve one date on your calendar: our Gipson Luau with Gip’s Down Home BBQ on Saturday, August 26th.

One more thing: we’d love to have the Center serve more people, and we have opportunities to host partner groups on weekday evenings. Do you know of organizations that need space? Perhaps it’s a special interest group, like our Everett Rock & Gem friends or a local Toastmasters, improv or orchestra group. Or, it could be a youth-serving nonprofit that teaches dance, cheer, singing, music or theater. We’re looking for regular, trustworthy partners to activate our spaces after 5pm, Monday through Thursday.

It’s going to be a great summer. See you at the Center,

Cory Armstrong-Hoss
The Gipson Speaker Series

is on hiatus in July and August and will restart in September

If you have suggestions for speakers, please contact Director Cory Armstrong-Hoss:

忱  carmstrong@voaww.org

_LEFT  (425) 818-2785

The pool room will be CLOSED on July 8, 10 and 11

for recovering the pool tables

Update on Tech Assistance

Beginning in July, the day and time for our tech help is changing. Drop-in sessions will be held in the Mt. Olympus room on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Bring your questions about smart phones, tablets and laptop computers to Jim Hagglund.

Thank you for understanding!
Hello Summer!

Red, White & Blue BBQ
at the Carl Gipson Center

In June we made a few trips...

- to Flower World
- to Snohomish Farmers Market
- to Edmonds beach
- We walked & shopped
- Enjoyed good food and great company!
NEW FOR MEMBERS

BOOK CLUB
with Hazel Johnson

- Begins September 2023
- 3-Month Sessions
- 2nd Monday, 12:30-2:30 PM

Reading plan for the Fall Session
- September, Stevens Pass: Gateway to Seattle by JoAnn Roe
- October, The Johnstown Flood by David McCullough
- November, Great Heart: The History of a Labrador Adventure

Participants responsible for purchasing and reading books prior to meeting each month

GIPSON TRIPS

Trips in July and August

Wednesday, July 26, 10:00 AM-2:30 PM, $15
Snohomish Mini-Golf and Lunch @ Spada Farmhouse Brewery

Wednesday, August 9, 10:30 AM-3 PM, $15
Attic Secrets Tearoom & Miller’s Produce at Carleton Farms

Tuesday, August 15, 11:30 AM-3:30 PM, $10
Seattle Premium Outlets and Ram restaurant

Wednesday, August 23, 11:30 AM-3 PM, $10
Mukilteo Beach and Ivar’s restaurant

Wednesday, August 30, 11:30 AM-4:30 PM, $30
Seattle Mariners vs Oakland Athletics (1:10pm game). Must register by 8/7

See member services to sign up. Space is limited.

If you require a wheelchair space on the bus, please book it during the sign-up process.

Questions?
Contact Activities Coordinator Cora Koffski

New 3-Workshop Series starting in September!

Hospice of the northwest

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

1ST ANNUAL GIPSON LUAU
Sponsored by Ron Gipson of Gip’s Down Home BBQ

Saturday, August 26 | 11am-2pm

$12 Pre-Sale | $15 At Door
Enjoy a full BBQ meal and drink...plus live music!

All proceeds benefit the Carl Gipson Center.
Open to everyone in the community.
EVERETT FARMERS MARKET @EVERETT STATION
Wednesdays 2 to 6pm
https://everettfarmersmarket.com

SNAP Market Match Makes Getting Fresh and Local Produce a SNAP!

SNAP Market Match

Markets match $10 or more per day.
Check with your local market for their daily match amount.
Find a list of participating farmers markets at:
doh.wa.gov/SNAPMarketMatch

Here’s how it works:
Go to the farmers market information tent.
Swipe your EBT card for the amount you want to spend at the market.
Match your EBT dollars with SNAP Market Match.
Shop for fresh produce, seeds, and plant starts.

Redeem SNAP Market Match dollars for:

https://everettfarmersmarket.com

WIC & SENIOR Farmers Market Benefits WELCOME HERE!

Every second Thursday from 4-6 p.m.
at the Evergreen Branch
9512 Evergreen Way

LEGAL CLINIC with SNOHOMISH COUNTY LEGAL SERVICES

2023 dates
March 9    Aug. 10
April 13   Sept. 14
May 11     Oct. 12
June 8     Nov. 9
July 13    Dec. 14

Income restrictions apply
Register @ epls.org/SignMeUp or call 425-257-8000
COMMUNITY EVENTS

...and the Livin’ is Easy
Free Summer Concert
Sunday July 16
6:00-7:00 PM
Carl Gipson Center
3025 Lombard Ave, Everett

Gershwin’s 'Porgy and Bess'
Italian Folk Festival
Low Rider
Salute to Warner Bros. ‘Peer Gynt’ - Morning Mood
Bugler's Holiday
The Fifth of Beethoven

Evergreen Community Orchestra

Everett Station District Alliance

THE YARD
AT EVERETT STATION

Summer Events
Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Community Paint Day

Sunday, May 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
The Yard Set-up

June 7, 2-6 p.m.
Grand Opening of the
Wednesday Farmers Market
(through August 16)

June 14, 2-6 p.m.
Everett Station District
Town Hall Day

June 16, 12-1:30 p.m.
First of the
Friday Noon Concert Series
(all summer)

July 15, 9-11 a.m.
Summer Community Cleanup

August 18, 11-2 p.m.
Food Truck Rodeo

September 15, 12-6 p.m.
PARK(ing) Day Celebration

Sponsors & Supporters
Gipson Volunteer of the Month

Last fall Bethany Compassion Center offered their church bus for the Carl Gipson Center to use for day trips. They also provided a volunteer driver, Russell Wilson. Russell quickly became an integral part of the Carl Gipson Center. He drove our members on trips, became a member and active in our fitness classes.

When the Center purchased our own vehicle for trips, Russell agreed to not only to drive for us, but also trained our staff on driving the vehicle.

Without Russell, the trip program would not have been possible. His cheerful personality and willingness to jump in to volunteer has been a wonderful addition. Thank You!

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