

SeniorNet®

Puget Sound Computer Learning Center

Where skilled volunteer seniors teach seniors to use, enjoy computers

January, 2007 Vol. 8; Issue # 1 Mail: PMB 705, 15600 NE 8th, Suite B-1, Bellevue, WA 98008-3958
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lois Farris, President

What a wild winter! Together, we've braved snow, hail, high winds, cold temperatures and power outages. It's definitely time for a break from the weather and a return to our cozy, inviting and stimulating classroom. We are anxious to see you this NEW Year. There are still opportunities to sign up for classes. Since we had to reschedule registration, cancel classes and also cancel our December monthly meeting, some of you may have found it hard to register. It still can be done. We apologize for all the inconveniences but as you know we have no control of the weather.

At the last meeting I reported on the online book club in SeniorNet; that website is www.seniornet.org/books. If you have visited the site, I would be interested in hearing about your experiences. Another site that you might be interested in checking out is www.seniornewswire.org. Savvy Senior is an information service for older Americans. They have created a free online news feed called Senior Newswire. This unique service works like a search engine providing readers direct Web links to 50-plus news articles and information from top-rated media resources in one convenient, easy-to read, weekly e-mail. They have a wide variety of resources from national media outlets, newspaper and magazine publications, Web resources, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Each Monday subscribers will receive an e-mail at no cost or obligation, providing approximately 50 Web links to the top articles of the week. I hope you will check it out.

We will have our monthly meeting on January 16th at New Hope Ministries; hope to see you there.

Winter/Spring Registration Louise Flora, Registrar

In spite of the change of date, the Winter/Spring 2007 registration went very smoothly on December 4th. SeniorNet apologies to those who missed the change of date brought about by the adverse weather forecast.

The first car in the parking lot arrived by 7:00 AM; numbers were given out beginning at 8:30. In the first few minutes 38 numbers were distributed. By 9:30, when the doors opened, 70 people had numbers, were filling out applications and awaiting their turn for classes. By noon over 160 had been registered. Several classes are filled but there are still openings in many others. For example:

If you are planning to travel in the months ahead, register for Joe Hesketh's travel class. You can learn many tips and tricks, letting your fingers and the Internet do much of the work in planning.

Travel-1 Thursday 10 AM – Noon February 1 thru
February 15

Potpourri, a very popular class where you create greeting cards, labels and many other fun projects, still has a few openings.

Potpourri-1 Tuesday 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM January 16 thru
February 6

Since many classes still have openings, those interested in taking classes during our Winter-Spring 2007 session should call for information at our voice mail 206-232-5892 or visit our web site www.seniornetps.org.

THANKS!!
Roger Dalton

I'd like to thank you all for another successful registration. Particular accolades go to Joe Hesketh, John Leggate and Al McBride for braving the cold to organize the parking and to keep things moving.

Interesting Web Sites

Joe Hesketh

Heard about the following sites at the National SeniorNet Conference in October 2006.

National Institute of Health Online Resources for Older Adults

www.nihseniorhealth.gov

This is a very user friendly site that allows the user to change the text size, the page contrast or turn on a speech tool and listen to what is printed on the pages. It has informative links to over 30 Health Issues. NIH is also developing a Web trainers' tool kit to help webmasters make their sites *Senior Friendly*.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

www.ssa.gov/

More information than you may ever need on Social Security. There is a Retirement Planner and other helps. The SSA has a goal of getting all baby boomers to register online when they are ready to apply for benefits. Some stats on web use by older adults: 72% of the 51-59 age group are online, 54% of the 60-69 age group and only 34% of age 65+ use the web. These stats indicate there are still lots of potential students for our classes. Why not tell someone about us today?!

Tired of being put *On Hold* when you make a call?

www.gethuman.com

This site tells you how to bypass those annoying recordings and reach a live person. The gethuman project is a consumer movement to improve the quality of phone support in the US. This free website is run by volunteers and is powered by over one million consumers who demand high quality phone support from the companies that they use. [More info.](#)

The Seattle Times recently published an article, "[Talk to a human? Most firms flunk test](#)

", about the gethuman grading [[Seattle Times](#), December 12, 2006]. They also included some interesting comments from companies on the list. We thought you might want to check it out.

Granpal Corner
Nancy B. Harsh

SeniorNet Granpal volunteers are busy helping students at Phantom Lake Elementary school. Most Granpals have returned for the new school year. Many of them have been assisting with the same teachers for several years. These teachers consider them a part of their classroom. Unfortunately some of these teachers transfer to other schools in the area and then a Granpal has to make a big decision: "Do I stay at PLE or do I go with "my" teacher to their new school?" We have "lost" Chuck Flora who elected to go with Renee Karlovich to Chinook Elementary. But as our principal Tracy Maury reflected: the important point is that Chuck, and others like him, are still active with children in the Bellevue School District and as such are still part of the ideology of the Granpal program. We will still think of him as a Granpal.

The Last Word

As you may have noted our newsletter is a few days late getting to you. We cannot blame the December storms for this but rather having to wait until the Bellevue School District opened allowing us to send this from the classroom. I'm sure that many of you have most interesting stories to tell and to share of how you coped with the inconveniences caused by the storm. Can you picture me cranking an emergency battery radio, not to get the latest news, but to power up my cell phone as we had no "land" phone. Or trying to figure out how to make coffee on the camp stove when all we had was coffee beans? Send me your experiences and we'll try to include them in the upcoming months. nbharsh@msn.com

YOUR SENIORNET DATE BOOK FOR JANUARY, 2007

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2007

**New Hope Ministries Church
15760 NE 4th Street Bellevue**

Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for lunch at Crossroads Mall after the meeting

Free Computer Help Labs

Tuesday Jan 9, 23 and 30, 2007 9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

All Welcome, Members or Not

Phantom Lake Elementary School, SeniorNet Classroom

Instructors will sit with you at a computer to help solve problems

VISIT OUR WEB SITE www.seniornetps.org

Get information on our all-volunteer SeniorNet Computer Learning Center of Puget Sound.

Find information on our COURSES and SCHEDULES; see photos of our classroom and instructors.

Constructed by Hal Mozer, Jay Schlechter and maintained by Hal, Jay, Chuck Goldstein and Bill Bumpas

If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, please notify us of these changes. Unfortunately a number of our 2007 Winter/Spring catalogs were returned. If you did not receive a catalog, that might be the reason. Please call the voice mail 206-232-5892 or email Senior@seniornetps.org and bring us up to date.

If you wish to contribute articles, news items or comments, please contact Nancy Harsh at nbharsh@msn.com.

To receive this free monthly newsletter, update your email address or unsubscribe, please send your full name, phone and email address to pugetsnet6@qwest.net.

If you have friends who are online and who may be interested in taking classes to expand their skills, please forward this newsletter to them. To do so: click Forward when the email message with the newsletter is displayed; enter the email address of the person to whom you are sending it in the To box and click Send.

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President: Lois Farris; Vice Pres: Merrilee George; Treasurer: Joe Hesketh; Secretary: Martha Simon; Registrar: Louise Flora; Curriculum Coordinator: Bob Balsley; Facilities Coordinator: Gordon Young; Public Relations Coordinator: Helen Hesketh; Immediate Past President: Adella Granger; Member-at-Large: Harry Shedd; Granpals Coordinator: Nancy Harsh; Online Newsletter Circulation: Chuck Hurter