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Classroom Location: Phantom Lake Elementary School 1050 160th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98008

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 16, 2008

**NEW HOPE MINISTRIES CHURCH
15760 NE 4th STREET BELLEVUE**

Meeting begins at 10:00 AM

PROGRAM

Harpist Bronn Journey will present 45 minutes of entertainment beginning around 11:00 am following the business meeting. Everyone is invited, especially relatives and friends. If they do not want to attend the business meeting, they should arrive at 10:45 am.

Door Prizes have been donated by Harry Shedd.



BRONN JOURNEY - Over thirty years ago, a volunteer with the Seattle Public Schools placed a harp in Bronn's hands for the first time and began teaching the 11-year old boy how to play. He advanced rapidly and soon moved on to study with harpist Edith Lundgren. By the time he was 16, he was performing professionally in fine hotels and restaurants in the Seattle area.

After high school, Bronn was accepted to the School of Music at the University of Washington where he received instruction from Pamela Vokelek. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1985.

Today, Bronn's musical accomplishments are known and appreciated throughout Washington State and the Northwest. His amazing versatility and humorous approach to a seriously classical instrument have made him a favorite with concert goers. "Because of the experience of playing in a variety of settings, I am very comfortable playing in many different styles," comments Bronn and his

concert selections range from classical to Broadway to hymns. Bronn has even played the National Anthem at Seattle Seahawk and Sonics games!

Visit his website <http://www.bronnjourney.com>

CLASSES UPDATE

Classes have begun for Fall 2008 semester but you still have time register. We will be introducing students to our new computers so there's plenty to learn.

Classes with available space:

PAINT

Wed 11:30am - 1:30pm
9/3/08 & 9/10/08

POTPOURRI

Tues 1:00pm - 3:30pm
9/16/08 thru 10/7/08

DIGITAL CAMERA

Wed 11:30am - 1:30pm
9/17/08 & 9/24/08

EXCEL - PLAYING with NUMBERS

Wed 2:00pm - 4:00pm
9/17/08 thru 10/22/08

PHOTO EDITING

Fri 2:00pm - 4:00pm
9/26/08 thru 10/31/08

CREATING MEMOIRS

Fri 9:00am - 11:00am
9/26/08 thru 10/31/08

VIST OUR WEBSITE www.seniornetps.org

GRANPALS

For anyone interested in becoming a Granpal, this is the very best time to join our select circle. The month of September gives us all time to decide which teacher we would like to help or which grade we'd like to work with. Most granpals do not go in to the classroom until late September or the first of October so for new Granpals this gives them an opportunity to do the necessary paper work and take the Orientation class offered by the Bellevue School District.

Volunteering in a classroom for an hour or so a week can be a fun and rewarding experience. Many of our Granpals have been working at the school for many years. Obviously they must feel they are making a positive contribution to the classroom as well as fulfilling a personal need. Over the next few months several Granpals will share with you some of their experiences and opinions of the program.

Pat FitzGerald is starting her 12th year as a Granpal:

"I have been volunteering for 11 years at Phantom Lake. First, I think the support of Senior Net and the Granpals has been phenomenal. It would be great if every school could have this support. Next, I have always been impressed with the teachers who are dedicated to the students. I think there are many in the community who have no idea how hard teachers work. I have learned about all the extra time teachers give to their students. Many parents are not aware of this, to say nothing about the community at large. My blood pressure goes up if I am in a group of people and tests score results are discussed and blame is placed on teachers.

The last, but probably the most important is I see former students in various places, who I thought might not make it, one who lives close by, and while riding her bike stops to visit if I am in my yard, and she tells me of her successes. She is in college now, doing well. It is because of the dedication of the teachers who cared through out her time at Phantom Lake that enabled her to succeed. There are many others who could tell that story... I'm glad I'm a Granpal...."

John Chrismer is starting his 9th year as a Granpal. I was explaining a math problem to a 4th grade girl from Colombia who just couldn't understand it. Suddenly her eyes lite up and she gave me a very thankful look. It wasn't the math, it was a language barrier! Once cleared, she had no problem. After that, each time I came to class she gave me a smile and little nod unless she needed help understanding

another problem.

Chuck Hurter is starting his 9th year as a Granpal.

My years with Granpals have been gratifying and rewarding. During this time in the classroom with 4th and 5th grade kids as a teacher assistant, I learned some of the new approaches to the three R's, Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic and applied what I remembered from those early days when I struggled with the same subjects. A refresher course if you will.

My goal is to give back in some measure the benefits of the public education that I received in the many years of schooling through graduate school and beyond. Granpal participation also helps in many ways to keep current with the changes in educating the kids of today not only in the fundamentals but including IT by the use of classroom laptops and PC's. These tools help this generation of kids in preparing their stories, letters, poems and reports for review by teacher and parents. And, hopefully, begins to prepare them for further learning and lifelong skills.

For more information please contact me by e-mail. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Nancy Harsh, Granpal Coordinator

nbharsh@comcast.net

SNPS HONORS HAL MOZER

Hal Mozer was nominated by the members of SeniorNet of Puget Sound to be our RSVP Volunteer of the Year. He will be honored at the RSVP Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at Emerald Downs Racetrack. The doors open at 8:30 am; there will be a complimentary breakfast and program from 9:30 - 11:30 am. We encourage all members to support Hal by attending the breakfast to honor him. Further information about the breakfast will be sent to our members prior to the October event.

We will have feature articles on Hal and RSVP in the October newsletter.

ALERT - Cheating at the Pump

This seems to be a wide-spread occurrence.

A man pumped exactly one gallon of gas and saw that the price did not match the cost of one gallon as displayed on the pump: it was higher. He went inside and complained; he got a refund. This is a true story, so please read it carefully.

On April 24, 2008, I stopped at a BP gas station in GA. My truck's gas gauge was on 1/4 of a tank. I use the mid-grade, which was priced at \$3.71 per gallon. When my tank is at this point, it takes somewhere around 14 gallons to fill it up. When the pump showed 14 gallons had been pumped, I began to slow it down. Then to my surprise it went to 15, then 16. I even looked under my truck to see if it was being spilled. It was not. Then it showed 17 gallons on the pump. It stopped at 18 gallons. This was very strange to me since my truck has only an 18 gallon tank. I went on my way a little confused; then on the evening news I heard a report that 1 out of 4 gas stations had calibrated their pumps to show

more gas had been pumped than a person actually got.

Here is how to check a pump to see if you are getting the right amount. Which ever grade you are using, put EXACTLY 10 GALLONS in your tank, then look at the dollar amount. If the dollar amount is not EXACTLY 10 times the price of the fuel you have chosen, then the pumps are rigged. In my case as I said the mid-grade was \$.371 9/10 per gallon; my dollar amount for 10 gallons should have been \$37.19. I wish I had checked the pump. It doesn't matter where you pump gas, please check the 10 gallon price. If you do find a station that is cheating, contact the state Agriculture Department and direct your comments to the Commissioner--info is on the gas pumps. We need to put a stop to this outrageous cheating of customers. The gas companies are making enough profits at honest rates.

Computer Humor

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. "House" for instance is feminine – "la casa". "Pencil", however, is masculine – "el lapis".

A student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender "la computadora" because:

1. No one but their creator understands their logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-

term memory for possible later retrieval; and

4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine "el computador" because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won!

Small-Margin Movement

A project founded by Los Angeles-based actress and writer Tamara Krinsky advocates a simple change that anyone can believe in: by altering the printing margin preference for Microsoft Word documents from the standard 1.25 inches to 0.75 inch, Americans can save a whole lot of paper – and trees, and money.

A study by the Penn State Green Destiny Council estimates that reducing margin widths from 1.25 inches to 0.75 inch would result in an average paper savings of 4.75 %. Making a ton of non-recycled office printer paper requires 24 trees, according to the San Francisco-based nonprofit group Conservatree. So for each ton of paper used for printing, about 1.14 trees would be saved with the smaller margins – a significant amount, given that American use 5.4 million tons of office paper each year. That's not to mention the energy needed for production that would be conserved – and the associated carbon emissions that would be reduced.

Other paper-saving strategies include buying post-consumer recycled paper and recycling it after use, making fonts smaller if the size won't inconvenience

the reader, and not printing if you can get away with sending a PDF file or reading a document on your screen.

To date, more than 2,000 people have signed a petition at

<http://www.changethemargins.com> to get Microsoft to reduce the preset margins in Word. Though that petition has yet to succeed, Krinsky hopes that other large organizations will take the lead.

Here's how to change the margins:

- Go to File, then Page Setup
- In the Margins tab, type in 0.75 for top, bottom, left and right.
- Click the Default button at the bottom of the Margins tab. A prompt will ask if you want to change the default settings for page setup. Click Yes.



RECIPE CORNER

Many people asked for the recipe for those delicious muffins that we enjoyed at Registration. So here it is - Enjoy!

Rhubarb Muffins

Servings: 18 muffins or 2 loaves

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

1 ¼ cups packed brown sugar

½ cup vegetable oil

1 egg

1 cup buttermilk

1 tsp vanilla

2 cups chopped rhubarb

Topping:

½ cup packed brown sugar

1 tbs butter, melted

½ tsp cinnamon

Preparation:

In large bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In separate bowl, blend sugar with oil; whisk in egg, buttermilk and vanilla. Stir into dry ingredients along with rhubarb just until flour is incorporated. Spoon into greased or paper-lined muffin tins, filling ¾ full, or spoon into two greased 8x4 inch loaf pans.

Topping:

Combine sugar, butter and cinnamon; sprinkle over batter.

Bake in 350°F oven for 20 - 25 minutes for muffins; 40 – 45 minutes for loaves, or until cake tester inserted into center comes out clean. Let cool in pans for 10 minutes before removing to let cool completely.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share with your fellow members, please send it to Nancy Harsh

nbharsh@comcast.net

Brown Bag Committee does it Again!

The Brown Bag Committee, lead by Adella Granger, held another successful Brown Bag luncheon. Early planning, including re-arrangement of tables in the Gym, to eliminate last year’s bottle-necks seemed to guarantee a successful Brown Bag program this year. But alas, “the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry”. In our case a major renovation of the Gym was not complete.

But the committee employed plan “B” and the luncheon was held in the “fresh air” environment of the “covered area”.

Thanks to assistance of Tracy Maury (Principal) and Mahala Faulmann (the school librarian and general technical support person) we were able to use the school’s portable sound system and Tracy arranged for the tables and chairs. This was another example of how the cooperation between SeniorNet and the school permits success when failure seems possible.

The Brown Bag Committee quickly adapted to the unexpected surroundings and carried out their well planned agenda. Therefore I believe that special thanks are in order for the successful Brown Bag Luncheon, in spite of the late breaking surprises that had to be worked around.

A Big Thanks

Kenneth Crandall

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST

- Bill Bumpas
- Delores Davis
- Ray French
- Virgil Morgan
- John Parkinson
- Phil Scheier
- John Tucker
- Mary Ann Wiley

SEPTEMBER

- Barbara Blair
- Mary Collins
- Ken Crandall
- Mary Jane Donaldson
- Chuck Goldstein
- Nancy Harsh
- Dale Steen
- John Totosz
- Carol Anne Wilson
- John Wise
- Marie Wyborney

If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, please notify us of these changes. Please call the voice mail 206-232-5892 or email Senior@seniornetps.org and bring us up to date.

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

If you wish to contribute articles, news items or comments to the newsletter, please contact Nancy Harsh at nbharsh@comcast.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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