

Kiwanis Club of Peninsula-Gig Harbor

KiwaNews: April 22, 2009

Wednesday's Speaker

Drew Carrigan: Rebuilding Together South Sound

Upcoming Speakers

- **June 3: Clarence Peterson** on his submariner experiences off Fox Island (WWII)
- **June 10: Craig Faeth** presents on MVP Physical Therapy
- **June 24: Lynne Zeiher** gives a Gig Harbor/Pierce County Library update

Reminders

- **June 6, Pancake Breakfast for Maritime Gig**
- **June 12: Flag Day breakfast, 6:30 a.m.**
- **Five Minutes of Fame** prompts are posted on our club's [activities](#) web page.

For other Reminders, click

<http://calendar.mail.yahoo.com/gigharborkiwanis>

From the Prez. . . .



KiwaNotes

Bike Pick-Up Needed

Karen from Enumclaw has about a dozen bikes now for the bike program; do we have someone willing to pick them up? The tulips are in bloom, me thinks, in Puyallup valley, so you can tip toe thru the tulips and pick up bikes on the way back; has a nice ring to it. . . .

~from Bill F.

Thanks from Michelle at Artondale

The Artondale ECEAP would like to thank Kiwanis for the 'Puppets Please Marionette Show' and the wonderful books you have given us. They truly add to our program more than you can ever know.

Most of all we want to thank ALL the wonderful readers that have come to share very special time with our children. Many of them never have an adult, other than us, that will sit with them to read a book so that time is so special and the book they take home is treasured. We are so grateful for all of you and your service to young children, thank you!!

Pet Remembrance Tree Project

The Pet Remembrance Tree committee met to plan for this event, which will be highly advertised at Harbor Hounds Day, Sept. 26, 2009. We will have a 10x10 space with table, canopy, and advertising, as well as a "mock" pet remembrance tree to give attendees an idea of our event during the holiday season.

We hope not only to advertise our event, but also sell lights on the tree, with a red light signifying "in honor of" a pet and a white light signifying "in memory of." We will also have a Pet Raffle Basket at our booth and info about Gig Harbor Kiwanis Club.

The actual Pet Remembrance Tree itself will have a permanent location

from Nov. 27 through the holiday season, culminating December 25, 2009.

We do not have a permanent location as of this reading; however, the committee is pursuing ideas discussed at last Wednesday's meeting. We are certainly open to any ideas from all you Gig Harbor Kiwanians who are not on the committee as well.

Our next meeting will be held at Borders Book Store, Uptown Gig Harbor, Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30 pm. Please feel free to attend, or you may e-mail me at trailbuddies2004@yahoo.com.

Thanks, **Sherry**

(P.S. A big thank you to those who signed up to be on the committee: **Jeni, Virdi, Dee, Connie, Susan, Joe, Jim B, Terry J, Lance, Bob and Sylvia, and Rich T.** We welcome anyone interested in joining us (including spouses of Kiwanian members), and we will certainly be able to use your help for the Harbor Hounds Day event and the actual Pet Remembrance Tree sales during the holidays.

New Members

A hearty welcome to the three members inducted at last week's meeting! (We home to have a bio on Steve Bay for an upcoming edition.)

Carol Arnold

Carol is a physical therapist and worked for most of her career as a pediatric therapist with preschoolers with special needs. Since moving from the Washington DC area to Gig Harbor in 2000, she has become active in the quilting community and through the Gig Harbor Quilt Festival she created and

Kiwanis
Young Children
Priority One

directs a comfort quilt project, which makes quilts for persons undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Carol has long-standing ties to the Gig Harbor area, and Hallstrom Avenue is named for her great grandfather who homesteaded Point Richmond. Steve and Carol have two daughters: Melia lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and Kristina lives in Bowling Green, Kentucky.



Steve Arnold

Steve is a second generation native Californian, who grew up in Long Beach where he met Carol in high school, and had his first exposure to Kiwanis as a member of the Wilson High Key Club.

After completing his graduate degrees in International Studies in Washington, DC, he joined the American University faculty and helped to create and direct a program in international development management. After retiring from this program in 2000, he and Carol moved to the "other Washington" where he worked part time in a similar program at the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, retiring in 2008. His work has enabled him and Carol to travel widely, including the opportunity to live in Brazil, Japan and twice in the United Kingdom.

Thanks

Many thanks to **Dick S.** for taking over KiwaNews for the month that John H. was away!

Inspiration

- May 27 - Bill F.
- June 3 - Jeni M.
- June 10 - Rich T.

Milestones



***Happy Anniversary to John & Jan B. on June 3rd!**

***Happy Birthday to John S. on May 26th!**



Deep Thoughts

Some thoughts on Memorial Day (author unknown) . . .

Memorial Day is their day, isn't it? It is supposed to be the day a grateful nation pauses to quietly thank the more than one million men and women who have died in military service to their country since the Revolutionary War.

Or is it the day the beach resorts kick into high gear for the summer season, the day the strand is covered by fish-belly white people basting themselves in coconut oil, the day the off-season rates end and the weekend you can't get in a seaside seafood restaurant with anything less than a one hour wait.

Or is it one of the biggest shopping center sales days of the year, a day when hunting for a parking space is the prime sport for the holiday stay-at-homers?

Or is it the weekend when more people will kill themselves on the highways than any other weekend and Highway Patrol troopers work overtime picking up the pieces?

I think the men and women who died for us would understand what we do with their day. I hope they would, because if they wouldn't, if they would have insisted that it be a somber, respectful day of remembrance, then we have blown it and dishonored their sacrifice.

I knew some of those who died, and the guys I knew would have understood.

They liked a sunny beach and a cold beer and a hot babe in a black bikini, too. They would have enjoyed packing the kids, the inflatable rafts, the coolers, and the suntan lotion in the car and heading for the lake. They would have enjoyed staying at home and cutting the grass and getting together with some friends and cooking some steaks on the grill, too.

But they didn't get the chance. They blew up in the Marine Barracks in Beirut and died in the oily waters of the Persian Gulf. They caught theirs at the airstrip in Grenada in the little war everyone laughed at. They bought the farm in the I Drang Valley and on Heartbreak Ridge, Phu Tai and at Hue. They froze at the Chosin Reservoir and were shot at the Pusan Perimeter. They drowned in the surf at Omaha Beach or fell in the fetid jungles of Guadalcanal. They died in the ice and snow of the Bulge and the Vosges Mountains.

They were at the Somme and at San Juan Hill and at Gettysburg and at Cerro Gordo and at Valley Forge.

They couldn't be here with us this weekend, but I think they would understand that we don't spend the day in tears and heart-wrenching memorials. They wouldn't want that. Grief is not why they died. They died so we could go fishing. They died so another father could hold his laughing little girl over the waves. They died so another father could toss a baseball to his son in their backyard while the charcoal is getting white. They died so another buddy could drink a beer on his day off. They died so a family could get in the station wagon and go shopping and maybe get some ice cream on the way home.

They won't mind that we have chosen their day to have our first big outdoor party of the year. But they wouldn't mind, either, if we took just a second and thought about them.

Some will think of them formally, of course. Wreaths will be laid in small, sparsely attended ceremonies in military cemeteries and at monuments at state capitols and in small town's squares. Flags will fly over the graves, patriotic words will be spoken and a few people there will probably feel a little anger that no more people showed up. They'll think no one else remembers.

But we do remember. We remember Smitty and Chico, and Davey and the guys who died. We remember the deal we made: If we buy it, we said, drink a beer for me.

I'll do it for you, guys. I'll drink that beer for you today, and I'll sit on that beach for you, and I'll check out the girls for you and, just briefly, I'll think of you. I won't let your memory spoil the trip but you'll be on that sunny beach with me today.

I will not mourn your deaths this Memorial Day, my friends. Rather, I'll celebrate the life you gave me.

This Bud's for you, brother!

2008-9 Officers

President & Treasurer, Melani Joyal
(mmarkovich@rhodescpa.com 253-874-2657)
President Elect, Jim Hansen
Vice President, Rich Tucker
Secretary, Lance Colyar
(lcolyar@comcast.net 253-265-6323);
Immediate Past President, Kathy Robers

Board of Directors:

Bill Fogarty ~ Bob Gadiant ~ Connie Harrington
Mike Hinz ~ Scott Kingsbury ~ Terry Johnson;
Joe Loya ~ Nick Markovich ~ Al Mitchell
Al Robers ~ Ron Wentlandt

WebSite: www.gigharborkiwanis.com

Web Master & Newsletter,

John Harrington

(gigharborkiwanis@yahoo.com 253-851-6122)

KiwaNews is the newsletter for Gig Harbor Kiwanis. We meet every Wednesday, 7 a.m. at Madrona Links Golf Course Restaurant, 3604 22nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor