



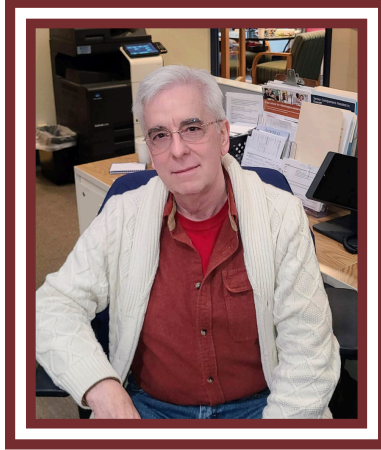
GIPSON GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE CARL GIPSON CENTER

MARCH 2025 | MEMBER & PARTNER EDITION | VOL. 38

GIPSON SPOTLIGHT

Member
DEAN
SALVADALENA



Dean and twin brother Gene.



“There was like half of me that was not there, a big hole, and I didn’t know how to fill it.”

Two years ago, Dean Salvadalena moved from Maine to Everett, to live with his twin brother in Eastmont, after his longtime partner Jerome passed away.

Dean had been away for a very long time.

Dean and Gene, the oldest of four siblings, grew up in Snohomish. *“I was not that coordinated. My twin brother excelled at sports. When they’d pick teams, even my brother wouldn’t choose me, that’s how bad I was.”* Young Dean always had his nose in a book, mostly geography or history, but that curiosity didn’t translate to school, where he was an unenthusiastic student.

The Rotary Club of Everett opened an unexpected door for Dean. For the first time they sponsored a direct exchange program with Hiroshima, Japan. A local family would host a Japanese teenager and send one to Japan. Dean flew across the world to join the Yasumotos: Mom, Dad and 17-year-old daughter Sachiyo, while their son Motoyuki spent a year at Snohomish High School, living with the Salvadalenas.

“The thing I remember most: I learned so many stories of the flip side of the war. A lot of the Japanese people were either forced to go to war or die.” Dean met survivors with burn marks, scars, disfigurements. He met their children, some of whom had suffered from radiation-related conditions. *“There’s always a flip side to a conflict. The people that suffered were those who were forced to fight, or live in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, and lived through this horrible experience.”*

At home with Japanese culture and language, Dean worked several years for a Japanese re-insurance company, living first in Greenwich Village, NYC, before moving to Brooklyn with Jerome. Outgoing and confident, Jerome drew out the naturally reserved Dean. *“He gave me a lot of strength and courage to do things.”* They’d explore the city, go to opera, and frequent Broadway shows like *Les Miserable* or *Sunset Boulevard*. After they relocated to Maine in 1999, same sex marriage became legal in the United States, and Dean and Jerome married.

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Dean remembers those years with Jerome with a slight, wistful smile. *“We loved to travel, and we traveled many places: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany.”* They often went to the UK, and kept their distance from big travel groups, preferring instead to hire a local guide to take them off the beaten path. They had many adventures, until Jerome got sick. Dean cared for him those last years, trying to will the world to give them more days, hours, minutes.

Jerome passed on May 31st, 2023, at home, and soon Dean’s twin brother Gene flew out and helped Dean pack up. Together they drove a U-Haul back to Everett.

Dean hadn’t lived in Washington in 49 years.

After he settled in his brother’s home – with Gene, Gene’s wife, and their 93-year-old father – Dean couldn’t shake the grief, the emptiness. *“I didn’t know what to do, but I knew I had to do something.”*

Last June he stopped by the Gipson Center and asked about volunteering. Gul mentioned that we needed help at the Membership Desk, and Dean has served, off and on, since that day. He also calls Bingo, attends trips, and serves on our Senior Advisory Committee.

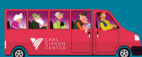


“The best thing for me here is meeting people. A lot of people here don’t have a lot in their life. You know, everyone wants to feel that they belong to something, that someone cares about them. Just to have someone say ‘hi’ or talk to them for a little bit, I get the impression that it’s a big deal.”

For Dean, serving at the Center, *“...gives me a lot of joy.”* Dean gives that joy back, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and every other Monday for Bingo, having found a place that, like Japan, New York or Maine, feels like home.

GIPSON IMPACT

503
Participants explored the world through Gipson Trips in 2024.



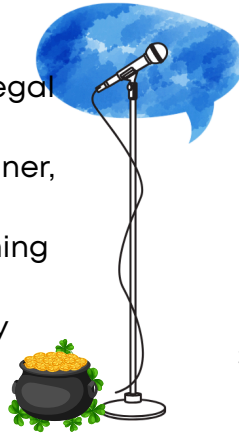
NEW FOR EVERYONE!

Speaker SERIES

MONDAYS
SPEAKERS BEGIN AT 11:45AM

March 2025 Speakers

- 3/3 Molly Mickelson | Snohomish County Legal Services: "Estate Planning"
- 3/10 Asch Qattawi | Community Transit Trainer, WVS
- 3/17 Jillian Miesner | Dementia Legal Planning Program
- 3/24 Brandon Gloor | Snohomish County



We're hosting speakers from a variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise to present on topics that are of interest to our community.

3025 Lombard Ave,
Everett, WA 98201



NEW FOR MEMBERS

This Gentle Karate class is perfect for all levels. There is a focus on balance and flexibility. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes.
Free with Regular or All-Access memberships



Gentle Karate

Taught by Takeshi Kitagawa,
9th Degree Black Belt

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

2:15PM-3PM | Mt. Rainier Room

QUESTIONS? Contact Activities Coordinator, Cora Koffski, at ckoffski@voaww.org or 425-818-2372




CGC COOKING CLASSES



with Gul Subaykan

All classes will run from 1:30PM - 3:30PM

Cheesy Spinach Bars | Tuesday, March 25 | \$15

10 spots available per class.

To sign up, please visit the front desk. Registration is required.



SCHACK ART CLASSES

AT CARL GIPSON CENTER

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month | 11AM-1PM

\$10

for each month's classes (two Wednesdays)

Join Mara from Schack Art Center for these fun projects!

FEBRUARY

Card making, painting rocks and flower bombs

MARCH

St. Patrick's Day rainbow catchers and painting birdhouses



QUESTIONS? Please contact Activities Coordinator, Cora Koffski, at ckoffski@voaww.org or 425-818-2372



Gipson Trips

March 2025

Meadowdale Beach Trail & Diamond Knot Brewery | 3 Shoes

Friday, March 14th | 9:30AM– 2:00PM | \$12.00

This trail near Lynnwood is 2.4 miles roundtrip, and has an elevation gain of 416 feet. Hikers pass through about a mile of beautiful forest, before popping out at the beach. Please wear hiking shoes or comfortable tennis shoes that may get wet, depending on weather. After our hike, we'll enjoy lunch together at Diamond Knot Restaurant & Brewery.

UW Cherry Blossoms | 3 Shoes

Monday, March 17th | 10:00AM-3:00PM | \$15.00

Let's visit the University of Washington to admire the stunning cherry blossoms. Afterward, we'll walk to University Avenue to select a nearby restaurant for lunch.

Garden Treasures Nursery & Lunch at Ellie's at the Airport | 2 Shoes

Thursday, March 27th | 11:30AM–4:00PM | \$12.00

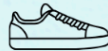
After enjoying lunch, we will explore garden treasures, a garden shop and plant nursery stocked with Pacific Northwest adapted plants.



Easy. Minimal walking, primarily flat surfaces and multiple opportunities to sit.



Moderate. Walking short distances of one mile or less and some standing required. Possibly uneven surfaces and some stairs. Some opportunities to sit.



Difficult- Requires staff assessment. Walking distances of one mile or more, significant inclines or declines. Uneven surfaces such as trails or beaches, or a combination of each of these elements. Standing for significant periods required. Possibly one or more flights of stairs. Walkers and wheelchairs prohibited.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Exciting News!



Starting March 3rd, the Carl Gipson Center will transition to a new check-in and payment system, SchedulesPlus. When you check in at the kiosk, you'll notice the change. If you have any trouble, stop by the front desk—we're happy to help!

SchedulesPlus offers great new features like an online calendar, class and trip registration, and more. To learn how to use it, join our wonderful volunteer, Jim Hagglund, for a demo on **March 4th & 13th from 12:00–12:30 PM in Cascade View.**

A huge thanks to Jim for all his hard work helping us prepare for a smooth transition - and to his lovely wife Laurie for sharing him with us for so many hours!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT CARL GIPSON CENTER!

MONDAY, MARCH 17TH, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Irish Cream Italian Sodas for sale, served by Everett School District's Goal students at Carl's Café from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Only \$2.00 each!
- Gold Hunt: CGC staff will hide "gold" and treats around the center for everyone to enjoy finding!

Bingo Fun: Join us for a lively game of Bingo, featuring new specials and a surprise giveaway! Card Sales start at 12:30 PM!

Senior Resource Fair

Sponsored by Molina

Promote Your Services To Hundreds Of Seniors

MAY 21
10AM - 2PM

Carl Gipson Center
3025 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98021

- \$150: For Profit Booth
- \$50: Nonprofit and civic/government agencies.

Optional:

- \$200 Sponsorship: includes logo on all promotional materials & tag on Facebook posts
- \$35 Table (8 ft) and 2 Chairs rental. Limited availability.

To Register,
Contact Cora Koffski:
at Koffski@voaww.org or 425-818-2372



SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY,
MAY 17TH,
11-1PM**

WE'LL HAVE REFRESHMENTS, FOOD,
HOT TEA, DELICIOUS SWEETS,
AND ENTERTAINMENT!
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS



Tuesday Sip & Sweet Success!

Thanks to our Goal students, their teachers, and the Celebrations Committee, Tuesday Sip & Sweet at Carl's Cafe has been a great success! We're excited to keep this going and expand our menu with hot espresso drinks, thanks to a generous member who donated two brand new espresso machines. This will give our students valuable barista experience, cash handling, customer service, and many other skills. A big *thank you* to the Celebrations Committee for their continued support - this achievement is a true team effort! If you are at CGC on a Tuesday, please stop by Carl's Cafe get a complimentary treat, order a specialty beverage and say hi to our Goal students and Celebrations Committee.

If you would like to support the Goal Students on their Barista journey, stop by the front desk to get their wish list of items that will help them continue to grow.



Schack Art class:
Creating cards



Cooking lasagna soup with Gul!



RESOURCES

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) at the Carl Gipson Center



FREE Tax Prep & Working Families Tax Credit Application Help

Interpretation available



11 consecutive Mondays from 2/3/25 through 4/14/25



9 AM – 5 PM



Alcove Room



Free to Qualifying Taxpayers

Questions? Call PIM Savvy: (206) 565-2961 ext 4 or visit: pimsavvy.com/vita



Marc Matsui



Yongrong Wu



Vanessa Delgado



Learn to ride the Light Rail

Tuesday, April 1 • Starts 11:45am • Cascade View

What to Expect

- 30-minute presentation on transit basics
- Bus ride to Lynnwood City Center Station
- Visit the RideStore to obtain Senior ORCA cards (if needed)
- Tour Lynnwood City Center Station
- Tap ORCA cards and access Link Light Rail
- Ride one stop to Mountlake Terrace Station
- Bus pickup at Mountlake Terrace Station, returning to Carl Gipson Center

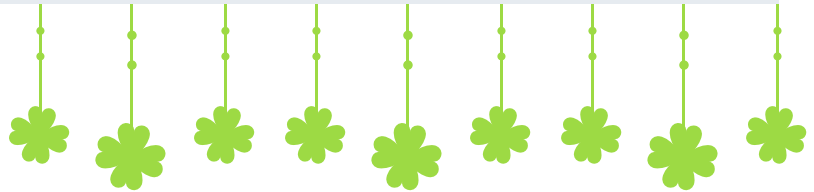
25 Spots Available

How to Register

Use the link <https://ctgo.org/April1Signup> or register at the front desk.



3025 Lombard Ave, Everett



Free, Confidential One-on-One Counseling



at the Carl Gipson Center | 3025 Lombard Ave, Everett



Lou Ann Carter, MSW, LICSW

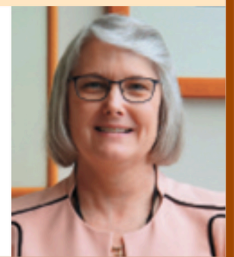
Available 3rd Saturday of the month 9:00AM - 12:00PM

To schedule an appointment, speak with Member Services.

Nancy Brosemer | Homage Counselor

Available 2nd & 4th Thursdays 10:00AM – 2:00PM

To schedule an appointment, contact Homage's Older Adult Access line at 425-290-1260



GIVING BACK



To register and donate to the
March Against Hunger:
<https://bit.ly/43k6jFP>



Carl Gipson Center Volunteer of the Month

Edie has been a valued member of the Carl Gipson Center for two years, bringing warmth, kindness, and a vibrant personality to our community. She loves participating in Cora's exercise classes and joining trips, always engaging with those around her.

Edie is a volunteer at heart, even if she didn't plan to be. When Roberta needed help running the Memory Café, Cora asked Edie to step in, and she didn't hesitate. Later, when a volunteer trip assistant was needed, she once again answered the call. Her willingness to step up whenever needed speaks volumes about her dedication to the Center and its people.

We are deeply grateful for Edie's generosity and love for the community, and we thank her for ensuring our programs continue to thrive.



EDIE CARROLL

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact our Operations Manager Gul to find out more.

Lucia Gallo
lgallo@voaww.org
(425) 818-2784



Lucia Gallolgallo@voaww.org
425-818-2784Membership &
Hospitality
Specialist**The Specialist**

Behind the Scenes with the Membership & Hospitality Specialist

aka “The Specialist,” or as my boss
occasionally calls me, “Everett's Martha Stewart”

Hi, my name is Lucia Gallo, and I oversee Membership, Rentals, and Community Events here at CGC. I'm excited to share what happens behind the scenes at the Center. The truth: there are so many sides to the Center that most of our members don't see.

I'm excited to share a bit of what happens behind the scenes. One of the most rewarding parts of my job has been working closely with the Everett Public Schools Goal Program. Watching students grow from the beginning of the year to their graduation has been unforgettable, and it's amazing to be part of their journey. Right now, we're partnering on Tuesday Sip & Sweets at Carl's Café, where students with the CGC Celebrations Committee sell beverages and offer complimentary treats each Tuesday. It's just one example of the incredible projects I get to be a part of, and I encourage you to stop by, grab an Italian soda and say hello!

Most members don't see the late nights spent preparing for events or the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making everything run smoothly. Part of my job is to generate revenue for the center by renting out spaces during non-business hours. I am pleased to share that we are now a home base for several local businesses and churches. Some of our commissary partners include Kona Ice, who joined us for our Red White & Blue BBQ, and Tacos Piratas, who catered our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. In addition to our existing commissary partners, we just officially welcomed three additional business. These partnerships support the Center and add to the vibrant community we're building.

Most members don't see the cultural and religious celebrations that fill our space, like the Marshallese community regularly booking our hall to celebrate their children's first birthdays. After working with them for several years it is so endearing to me that kids now call me “Auntie,” which has become something truly special to me. These celebrations add depth to the Center's role in the community, and they're a reminder to keep going, keep growing, and to keep welcoming and embracing diverse and unique communities.

Most members don't see the Campfire kids, whose joyful laughter fills the hall as they run around during their programs. It's one of the highlights of my day, hearing them ask, “Lucia, can we have some candy?” or “Can I have one more?” Their excitement brings so much life to the Center, and it's moments like these that make all the hard work worthwhile.

This has never just been a “job” to me. This Center has been a bright light in my life. On a personal note, I've been through difficult times, like the passing of my mom, and coming to the Center during that period gave me hope. The smiles here and the wonderful people I work with will always hold a special place in my heart. The team I work with—Gul, Cora, and Cory—have made this place a safe and welcoming home for me, my daughter Lucianna, and my family, and I'm incredibly grateful. My heart is deeply invested in the continued success of Carl Gipson Center. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, I am always happy to help.



CARL GIPSON CENTER

3025 Lombard Ave | Everett, WA 98201
(425) 818-2784 | www.voaww.org/gipson-center
M-Th: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM | Sat: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM



The Carl Gipson Center is sustained through funding from the City of Everett, Snohomish County Department of Human Services, foundations, corporations and individual donors