



GIPSON GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE CARL GIPSON CENTER

FEBRUARY 2025 | MEMBER & PARTNER EDITION | VOL. 37

GIPSON SPOTLIGHT

Member
**SKIP
GIPSON**



Skip calls it a Ministry of Presence.

He's our Chaplain, present in the Gipson Center lobby on two Thursdays a month. *"I come in to talk to people, get their stories. People talk to you, not to be judged or condemned. If they want to talk about faith, we can do that."* When Skip talks about what he's been up to since retiring in 2015, he thinks about *"...what God has me doing this season of life."*

There was a time before he was Skip the Chaplain, or grandfather to seven, or a Brier City Councilman, or City of Everett leader, or Cost Estimator at Boeing, or bank manager, or father to three. Before his fate became intertwined with the Center named after his late father. Back in 1949, when Carl and Jodie's first son was born, he was Carlton "Skip" Gipson, who grew up in the Everett house on the corner of 19th and Hoyt.

That kid loved being outdoors, and he'd run around a four-block area with the Herring boys, the Adams, and the Harold boys. They'd play *"... football, cops and robbers, cowboys & indians, hide and go seek, kick the can. In the summer we'd make hydroplanes out of wood, and race them, dragging them behind our bikes."*

Sunday was church at Second Baptist, and Jodie would make dinner: fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, and homemade rolls or cornbread – which he liked – and steamed okra and lima beans – which he hated. His Dad Carl was always working, and Jodie ran the household of three boys. She was a *"... strong woman. Strong faith. Strong personality. Loved her faith. Very protective."*

Skip endured Washington Elementary and North Junior High, never thinking of himself as a good student. *"My parents didn't have an education themselves, so they couldn't help me with my education."* Reserved by nature, Skip hated speaking in front of the class. As a teenager he delivered papers on his bike for The Herald, and filled in at his Dad's Exxon station at Hewitt and Rucker. He enjoyed Everett High, and remembers one night with a sly grin: he and his friends drove out to rival Cascade High School to *"paint the bear,"* splashing gold all over the famous Bear statue in front of campus.

When Skip was attending college at Western, he went to a friend's house party. Sheila walked

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

through the door. *“Long, beautiful blond hair. Petite bearing. Nice smile, blue eyes. Something about her drew my attention to her.”* She walked to the kitchen, and Skip followed her. The two would marry in 1975 at Fautleroy Community Church, and later raise Carl, Karissa and Tyrone.

In 1983 Skip had an opportunity: to leave the desk-bound tedium of cost estimating for Boeing and join Everett Mayor Bill Moore’s staff as an Administrative Assistant, in charge of special projects. Two years later, he was tapped to run Everett Transit. Then in 1993 he became Executive Director for the City, which included overseeing facilities, including one building called the Everett Senior Center.

“This building has been part of my responsibility for quite a few years,” Skip says, and he takes his responsibilities seriously. His City teams kept the building running for more than two decades, and Skip remembers the day in 2010 when he attended the renaming of the Center to the *“Carl Gipson Senior Center”* to honor his father.

In 2020, mid-pandemic, when the Center’s future was uncertain, it was Skip who encouraged VOA’s leadership to take over management of the Center. *“I could see, a few months into it, how isolation was creating problems with all segments of society, but particularly the seniors. When you’re isolated, depression and other drug or alcohol issues come into play.”* Skip asked VOA leaders a simple question: *“If not VOA, then who?”*



Thinking back over the past three years, Skip smiles. *“I’ve talked to so many members, about how glad they are that this place is open. I know they’re happy to be here, and there’s always a place they can come.”*

If you join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, you can ask Skip to tell you stories about growing up in Everett, about his Dad, or about his work in Uganda: supporting a church, a school, and several small businesses; sponsoring children; and building community. You can ask him about the 30+ years he’s spent taking ownership over our Center, our seniors, and our community.

You can try to ask him for his stories. Most likely, you’ll end up telling him yours.



GIPSON IMPACT



15,830

**Lunches served by our partner
Homage at the Gipson Center
in 2024**



NEW FOR EVERYONE!

**End of Life
Planning Workshop**



Learn the four important steps you can take to plan ahead and have your wishes known at end-of-life.

Thursday, 2/27/25
12-1:30 pm



Free & open to the community
RSVP requested by 2/10/25

Speaker **SERIES**

MONDAYS
SPEAKERS BEGIN AT 11:45AM



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



February 2025 Speakers

- 2/3: **Brock Howell** | Everett District Station Alliance
- 2/10: **Susanna Johnson** | Sheriff, Snohomish County
- 2/17: **Jason Cummings** | Prosecutor, Snohomish County
- 2/24: **Paula Rhyne** | Everett City Council

NEW FOR MEMBERS

Clothing Closet



Open to all seniors

Every Wednesday | Cascade View Room

11:45 AM to 12:30 PM



Free, gently used clothing will be available.



CUPID'S POPCORN & CUPCAKE PARTY

FEBRUARY 13 | 11:30-1:30PM

Join us for a festive Valentine's Day celebration! Enjoy popcorn, cupcakes, and crafts to create beautiful cards and art. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with friends and exchange valentines.



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

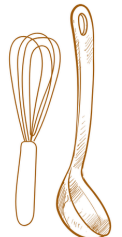


QUESTIONS? Please contact Activities Coordinator, Cora Koffski, at ckoffski@voaww.org or 425-818-2372

CGC COOKING CLASSES



with Gul Subaykan



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

Lasagna Soup | Tuesday, February 25 | \$18



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



10 spots available per class.
To sign up, please visit the front desk. Registration is required





Gipson Trips

February - March 2025



Lunch at Collector's Choice Restaurant and Downtown Snohomish | 1 Shoe

Friday, February 7th | 10:30AM-2:00PM | \$12.00

Join us for lunch at Collector's Choice, Snohomish's favorite spot to gather with friends for a delicious meal. After lunch, we will have time to explore historic downtown Snohomish.

Redmond Town Center | 2 Shoes

Thursday, February 13th | 11:30AM-4:00PM | \$15.00

Explore the more than 110 shops located at Redmond Town Center and stop for lunch at one of the many town center eateries.

Light Rail to Pioneer Square | 3 Shoes

Monday, February 24th | 10:00AM-3:30PM | \$18.00

We'll meet at the center and take the CGC bus to the Lynnwood Transit Center, where we'll hop on the light rail to Pioneer Square. Once there, we'll explore the sites and enjoy lunch then head back via Light Rail.

Evergreen Lanes Bowling | 3 Shoes

Thursday, February 27th | 11:30AM- 3:00 PM | \$20.00

Strike up some fun at Evergreen Lanes! Trip price includes the cost of two games. Food available for purchase.

Seattle's Japanese Garden & Cafe | 3 Shoes

Friday, March 7th | 9:30AM-1:30PM | \$20.00

Seattle Japanese Garden is a 3.5 acre urban sanctuary in the Washington Park Arboretum, with winding gravel paths and stone benches, rocks, water, lanterns, bridges, buildings, plants, and animals. We'll stop at a cafe on the way down, pick up a to-go lunch and wander the garden.

La Conner Daffodil Festival and La Conner Pub & Eatery | 2 Shoes

Thursday, March 13th | 11:30AM- 4:00PM | \$22.00

Join us for a trip to see 450 acres of Daffodils blooming in the beautiful Skagit Valley. We'll stop for lunch beforehand at La Conner Pub & Eatery.

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.



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



Held in the lobby of Carl Gipson Center on

Tuesday, January 21st | 11:30AM-12:30PM

Thursday, February 27th | 11:30AM-12:30PM

- No appointment necessary
- You do not need to fast before the test
- Immediate results
- Tests are available to those 18 years of age and older



Free Diabetes Detection Screening

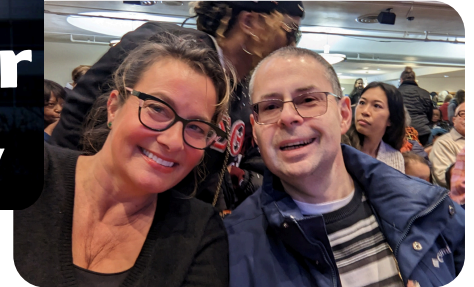
by Diabetes Association of Pierce County



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS



January 20th



January trips



Enjoying Irish fare at Shawn Odonnell's Pub



Exploring MOHA in Seattle



GIVING BACK

Help Us Enhance Our Sip & Sweet Tuesdays!



The Carl Gipson Center is seeking a lightly used commercial or professional-style espresso machine to support our Goal Students at Carl's Cafe during our Sip & Sweet Tuesdays. We're looking for a machine capable of pulling espresso shots and steaming milk, helping our students hone valuable skills in a real-world setting.

If you have an espresso machine that fits this description and would like to make a meaningful contribution, please consider donating it to our cause! Pictured below are some examples of machines that would be ideal. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership and Hospitality Specialist, **Lucia Gallo, at 425-818-2784.**



Thank you for supporting our students and our community!



Needed: Clothes

Donate Winter Clothes & Kids Clothes to Ukrainian Families

The Carl Gipson Center hosts a Welcome Center each Friday for Ukrainian families who've fled the war. We're partnering with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office to ask for help providing clothing for these families.



- ITEMS NEEDED**
(NEW OR GENTLY USED ONLY):
- All sizes:
 - Coats
 - Gloves
 - Knit Hats
 - Children's Sizes
 - Pants
 - Shorts
 - Shirts
 - Socks & Underwear

Donate items at the **CARL GIPSON CENTER**
3025 Lombard Ave, Everett

M - Th: 8:30am-5pm • F: 10am-12:30pm
Sat: 8:30am-3pm



Clothing donations now also offered to seniors.

Carl Gipson Center Volunteer of the Month

Jim has been a dedicated member of the Center since 2013 and an enthusiastic participant in Table Tennis. Over the years, Jim has consistently gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand wherever needed.

Before the Carl Gipson Center reopened in 2022, Jim generously volunteered his time to assist with cleaning, moving furniture, and preparing the Center for its grand reopening.

Today, Jim continues to be an essential part of the Table Tennis community. He arrives early to collect the key, set up the tables, and ensure everything is ready for the day. At the end of the sessions, he helps close down the area and returns the keys, ensuring everything runs smoothly. Please join me in thanking Jim for his dedication and all that he does to keep Table Tennis thriving.



JIM KELLY

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





From the Director

Don't look down.

It's become a habit, when I show someone around the Gipson Center and we stop at Cascade View's east-facing windows on a clear day. I joke by saying, "*Don't look down*". This morning the Cascades were extraordinary from those windows: a panorama of peaks rising out of a bed of winter fog, the brilliant winter sun shining on snow-capped summits.

I say "*Don't look down*" because our neighbor to the east painted its North, West and East-facing sides a couple years ago a modern, stately gray. The owner chose not to paint its peeling, yellowing backside, which faces our Center. This side often has trash and rat dens populating the short, dirt slope down to the motel. If you lower your gaze from the Cascades, you descend quickly from nature's sublime beauty to a 10-foot-wide strip of urban neglect. That's a choice I make most mornings when I walk around the Center and look out those windows. To not look down.

It's hard to always make that choice, but here's where the right people make all the difference. People who want the best for you. People who celebrate your successes. People who check in on you after a surgery or friend's death.

Most of us are on social media, and there, too, we can choose to look up. In case it's helpful, here are a few of my favorites: [Upworthy](#), [globalpostivenews](#), and [goodnews_movement](#). These remind us that there are helpers everywhere, and most of us, if presented with a cold and hungry neighbor, would reach for a blanket, start the coffee pot, and cook up some pancakes.

As we get further into 2025, I'll try not to look down too much. I'll keep my eyes up: to vistas, work, and people who elevate my spirit and call forth the best of me. Maybe I'll even make some time to clean up the back slope of our motel neighbor.

See you at the Center,

Cory Armstrong-Hoss



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