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From the Director: Denise Klein

It was a genius idea by Joan Bergman! She met with me in early 2018 and shared her thinking about what Pod 5 could do this year. I have the distinct impression that, while Joan enjoys socializing, it's even better when paired with an activity that builds understanding and improvement of the broader community. She'd also had the experience of putting together several popular 2017 Pod 5 activities that led us to explore Seattle's multi-cultural environment.

This time, Joan spoke to me about a series of events and activities that could **DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SEATTLE'S BLACK COMMUNITIES**. She had some specific ideas but also thought our members would come up with more. And she wanted a reading list of worthwhile fiction and non-fiction books that Pod 5 members and others had read, including some that covered local Seattle history of the original Black community. Joan would do her usual thorough "scoping" of sites with help from her husband Bruce Davis. The rest of the arrangements would be up to me.

It was important these activities be open to all *Wider Horizons* members. In the event, more than half our members attended at least one activity. They were wildly successful! And, in that serendipitous way of the world, our Book Group, led by another Pod 5 member (Sandra Wheeler), also chose to read several books with social justice themes, as well as books by immigrant authors.

The results are various, surprising, and positive and have taken us on a somewhat unplanned journey into the territory of social responsibility and racial equity. Ginny NiCarthy has several times commented to me that she has not previously been involved in a largely white organization that has attempted so much by way of educating its members about these issues.



The Pod 5 Debrief (article on page 4) was the recent bridge to a new set of activities sponsored by the organization as a whole and led by member Nancy Robb. Nancy did this work as a part of her career at City Light—and Joan is delighted to have someone pick up the mantle!

Please consider signing up for the November Equity workshops at Casa Latina (November 2 and 9) and continue on this path with your *Wider Horizons* friends. Who knows where it may lead?

A Blue Angels Blast and More

It turns out that one of our newest members, Debbie Ward, loves to think up and host fun social events at her newly-remodeled Leschi Craftsman home. She started with a Blue Angels-watching party on August 5, attended by 18 people, most of whom were Blue Angels fans. The rest of us were just fans of getting together with other members!



Charles Heaney Grilling on Debbie's Deck



Julie Anderson, Margaret Fisher, and other WH Members on Debbie's Upstairs Deck

P.S. On September 30, a few intrepid Bridge and Scrabble players gathered at Debbie's, initiating what could become a semi-regular game gathering. Next up, a Jack O'Lantern carving event on Sunday, October 28, 2-4 pm.

Pod 7's Annual Ice Cream Social

by Chris Morris

On September 18, a late summer "Ice Cream Social" was hosted by POD 7's **Julie and Bob Anderson** at their lovely home in Capitol Hill. The event, in its second year, featured a variety of delectable ice creams with an even larger variety of toppings. Bob played the soda jerk, ably dispensing goodies while suggesting available toppings and reminding everyone that seconds were encouraged!



Michael Kischner, Bob Anderson, Julie Anderson, Harry Watts and Nina Watts -- celebrating at the Pod 7 Ice Cream Social

Early arrivals gathered around the fireplace in the cozy living room then gravitated to the lighted outdoor deck, equally cozy with a heater, as the evening light faded. Adding to the camaraderie of the gathering was a spontaneous rendition of "Happy Birthday" to Harry Watts on the occasion of his 80th, followed by congrats to Julie and Bob, our hosts, on the occasion of their 48th Wedding Anniversary. Seventeen happy, slightly wider Wider Horizon members topped the evening off with chocolate chip cookies and a warm beverage. Suggestions for a repeat event for next year were overheard!



*With this report, we welcome new member and newsletter correspondent **Chris Morris** to our pages. Chris writes: "I joined WH a year-plus ago, as a new resident of Seattle, from Manhasset, Long Island. My career in airline public relations prior to having a family, led me to continue a career in journalism and*

editorial work in magazines, newsletters and non-profit development publications."

Seattle in Black & White Salon by Michael Kischner

There's nothing like hearing history straight from those who lived it. On September 11, Jean Durning, Joan Singler, and Esther Hall Mumford took a rapt audience of over sixty Wider Horizons members and their guests back to 1960, when the three were part of an interracial group that confronted racial segregation in Seattle. The salon at the Central Area Senior Center, was presented by WH's Pod 5 as part of its "Deepening Our Understanding of Seattle's Black Communities" initiative.



Panelists and CORE Members Jean Durning, Esther Hall Mumford, and Joan Singler. Charles Heaney looks on

You can read the full story in *Seattle in Black and White: The Congress of Racial Equality and the Fight For Equal Opportunity* (University of Washington Press), which Durning and Singler co-authored with two other people. But it was a special experience to watch and listen as the three presenters relived the exhilaration of confronting Safeway when it claimed it could find no qualified African-Americans to work in its 23rd and Union store. It made it real to see one of the actual signs – DON'T SHOP WHERE YOU CAN'T WORK – with which the CORE members very effectively got Central Area shoppers to turn away from Safeway's door. (At our table sat David Lamb and his wife, in whose basement many of the signs were created.) And how delightful to hear that within three days Safeway was miraculously able to find some qualified Central Area workers to employ!



Other victories were to begin transforming Seattle from the segregated city it was in 1960. The campaign was no cakewalk, as the speakers made clear. It called for persistence, hard work, and courage in the face of difficulties and even danger. But one was struck by the energy and high spirits of these three activists as they recalled an intense and meaningful endeavor that brought them together with others, black and white, serving a high and urgent cause.

The question period brought further lively reminiscence as well as sober reflection. Central Area supermarkets have integrated work forces, but there are far fewer supermarkets. Overt redlining may not keep black homebuyers in the Central Area, but gentrification is making it hard for many black residents to stay in it. According to some in the audience, whites with buying power to move into the Central Area have little time for, or interest in, acquainting themselves with the residents and histories of their new neighborhoods.



CORE Members David and Mary Lamb at left, along with assorted WH Members and Guests, paying rapt attention to the panel

Long after the salon broke up, clusters of people stood and talked. We had been left with a lot to think about. Which is the point of a salon.

“The Struggle Continues”: Pod 5 Debrief on October 16

by Denise Klein

Wider Horizons members just kept coming. Facilitator Nancy Robb wanted to start “on-time” (6 pm). I persuaded her that people would continue to show up for at least 15 minutes because “that’s how it works.” Plus everyone wanted to sample the tasty hors d’oeuvres members contributed.



Liz Ohlson and Mary Ellen Strote compare notes

Neither Nancy nor Joan Bergman (architect of the Pod 5 program for 2018) nor I expected that 20 people would eventually show up! Our members’ appetite for culturally-relevant, diversity-focused, social justice-type discussions seems to be growing.

It was evident this was not Nancy’s “first rodeo” as an equity and inclusion trainer. She made and displayed a great poster—using a phrase that

was used by the presenters at last month’s *Seattle in Black and White* salon: “The struggle continues.” She brought ten books from her own extensive library (she often buys multiple copies of a book that catches her eye) to share.

Nancy began with a quiz designed to get discussion going. It asked about important details of each of our field trips. The juicy question she then posed was “What stood out for you in terms of learning?” After that, the discussion ran largely on its own and was rich, deep and sincere—even moving.



Nancy Robb listens intently to a participant's point

By the end of the evening, we were addressing the *quo vadis* question. In addition to the two Racial Equity Seminars to be held November 2 and November 9, many other ideas were floated. We are all now challenged to keep our momentum!

John Barber: A Profile

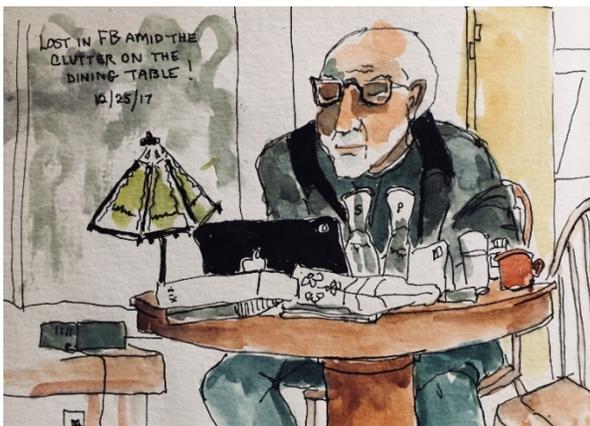
by Michael Kischner

Friends of Street Ends? Friends of Frink? TreePAC? Seattle Neighborhood Coalition? To interview John Barber is to learn about organizations you never knew existed. These are only four of the local groups and projects that have been close to John's heart. Others include Flo Ware Park, Paul Bennet Park, the Leschi Community Council, and the Central Area Senior Center.



John on a typical day of gardening at "The Central"

Two themes run through John's activism: neighborhoods and nature. On behalf of these values, John has put in hours of advocacy and plain hard work, sometimes wielding a telephone and sometimes a shovel. He regularly brings his gardening tools to the Central Area Senior Center to help maintain its grounds.



John at his dining room table, captured by artist wife Kate

John grew up in Elmhurst, Illinois. After earning a B.A. in Philosophy from Beloit

College, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and, after a year of studying Russian at the Army Language School in Monterey, was assigned to an Army Security Agency base in Germany. Here he met and became friends with our own Scott Dills.

John's next stop was the University of Chicago, where he earned an M.A. in sociology. Here he also met Kate, a library science major. During this time, he participated in protests against plans by the city of Chicago to build a freeway through the city's famous Jackson Park. The protesters tied strips of cloth around trees. Six of them, including John were arrested but later exonerated. The road work was halted.

In 1967, John and Kate married and then looked for work—"in that order," he points out. John got a job with HUD dealing with public housing on tribal lands in the Midwest. Kate had a sister living in Seattle, and they visited the city. When a HUD job opened up here, they went for it. Soon after moving here, they were ensconced in their home tucked among trees on a hill overlooking Leschi, with a splendid view of Lake Washington.

About ten years ago, John read about Beacon Hill Village in Boston. "Why don't we have one of those in Seattle?" he wondered. Had he not been up to his ears in saving parks and organizing neighborhoods, Wider Horizons might have come into being then. As it was, he and Kate joined soon after Wider Horizons was formed. John is a regular at Old Men Drinking Coffee and on garden tours. He fits these in around his continued activism. The September 2018 issue of *Leschi News* featured an editorial titled "Trees: when we love them, when we don't." Its subtitle is: "John Barber warns us about the proposed new tree ordinance."

Carolyn Allen: A Self-Introduction

Editor's note: *Eighty interesting individuals make up Wider Horizons. To help us get to know more about each other, this newsletter has included member profiles in every issue. This month, copying the practice of some other Villages, we invited a member to introduce herself in her own words. Carolyn Allen, newly retired as Professor of English at the University of Washington, kindly agreed to go first. We hope others will follow, and that these self-introductions will be as wonderfully varied as the Wider Horizons membership.*



Carolyn Allen at lunch at La Colombe d'Or in St. Paul de Vence, France. "The place is special to me because a number of the American writers who lived in France in the 1920s and about whom I write in my scholarship ate there."

My friends and I used to ask others what the four most important things they needed to sustain them in life were. Here are mine: 1. Good health; 2. Friends whom I love and who love in return; 3. A warm and welcoming home; 4. Meaningful work. I have been lucky enough in my life (luck founded in part on being born into a white, middle-class family), to have each of these.

1. Good health grounds everything. What few hard moments I have had along the way seem minor compared to those of others. My bones aren't the best and my body grows shorter by the minute, so now I think of myself as little but fierce.

2. My friends, old and new, sustain me as much as good health does. As a woman living alone and without children, I count on friends to be my family. Growing up in Spokane, I was part of a girl group. We built snow houses that soon melted and turned brown. In the woods on the High Drive we put blankets over fallen branches and had deep conversations about Life. We sat in my back yard and tried to digest the crabapples from twin trees. When that proved unwise, we turned to rhubarb that grew in the winter snow-house space. Good decision; better eating. Through college on the sleeping porch and after in the chaos and comfort of family, friends kept me as safe as they could. They literally rescued me from my scariest moment. We were hiking on an unfamiliar beach near Kalaloch when the tide rushed in much faster than we had expected. It was February. It was my 56th birthday. I fell on some mossy rocks and motioned them to go on. They rounded the next point, but the beach was narrow and the tide was high. I climbed up the cliff as far as I could and stood waiting (stupidly) for the tide to go out. Three hours later a Coast Guard helicopter arrived, a guy propelled down and away we went into the gray sky. I knew later that without those friends' intervening, I would not have survived. Now I rely on friends as travel companions. Some favorite views: instant sunsets in the South African winter, river dolphins in Bolivia, and plane tree alleys, sunflower fields, and sunny breakfasts in my beloved French countryside. Travel while you can and whenever possible, with friends.

3. I have lived since 1972 in my Montlake house. I cherish peace in trying times. I want to stay there forever, so I am adding a study and bath for one-floor living in the future.

4. I identify both as a teacher and a scholar. Researching women writers in the 1920s first took me to Paris, where I wandered the streets of St. Germain des Prés hoping for the ghosts of Djuna Barnes and Gertrude Stein. My 46 years at UW gave me meaningful work, fabulous students, literary challenges, and a sense of purpose. We'll see what comes next.

Ellen Berg's *Wider Horizons* Legacy by Denise Klein



Ellen at left with Beret Kischner and Deirdre Cochran at a 2018 small group discussion

Ellen Berg has been a consistent champion for the right and obligation of members to steer *Wider Horizons*. In mid-2016, she shared with the Board of Directors her vision of our organization as “a community in which leadership and members share their vision and work together to achieve it. I would like the members to have a more participatory experience in shaping the program of the village.”

Ellen learned the Board shared her vision and she agreed to participate in the Board’s *Futures Task Force* in the fall of 2016. As part of that effort, she was asked to lead a series of small group meetings, loosely organized around Pods, to get member input for Task Force recommendations. Groups, attended by 40 enthusiastic members, met in early 2017. Discussed were: 1) How does WH fit into your life? 2) How can the maturing village expand its leadership? 3) How can the village meet its financial needs?

Member input from this first series of small groups was critical in finalizing a set of recommendations that revamped our leadership and staffing.

Then in mid-2018, as part of a new strategic plan, the Board asked Ellen to put on her “small group hat” once more and deploy her considerable skills to facilitate a new series of discussions. These were to be focused primarily on how we could best strengthen our capacity to support our members going forward.

With the conceptual help of several other members, including Ginny NiCarthy and Ann Lawrence, and with logistical support from me, Ellen put together a new series of 8 small group discussions. In August of 2018, 52 members considered these 3 questions: 1) Thinking about this stage of life now and a few years in the future, what concerns do you have? 2) Looking ahead, what role do you imagine (e.g., expect, hope) the Village will have in your life? 3) On the basis of your own reflections (and this conversation) what suggestions do you have for the development of the WH program of Services and Social Activities?



Barb Klube, Denise, Helen Jones, Denise Lishner at a small group at Barb's home

Read Ellen’s report. Ask me for it or go to our website (www.widerhorizonsvillage.org). It contains a cornucopia of new options and initiatives that will constitute her ongoing legacy to support our members. This, and all her previous efforts, assure what we do is built on a strong foundation of what members want.

Ellen Berg by Chris Morris

Editor’s note: *If you’re in Wider Horizons, chances are very good that you participated in one of the eight small group discussions conducted by Ellen Berg with assistance from Denise Klein in August. In the article above, Denise writes about those discussions and the remarkable report that Ellen produced from them. Here, **Chris Morris** tells us a bit about the remarkable Ellen Berg herself.*



Since earning her Ph.D. in Sociology from George Washington University, Ellen Berg, who never planned to teach, has not stopped teaching. Her students have

included undergraduates at the University of Maryland and Vassar as well as retired adults at Bellevue College and other local learning centers. Her numerous disciplines have included “Aging.”

Ellen credits her personal knowledge of aging to years of long-distance caregiving responsibilities. Los Angeles was home to Ellen until her marriage and husband’s business made Washington DC their home. The couple travelled extensively, including an extended stay in Nigeria. Their daughter was born in the DC area.

Ellen’s parents remained in L.A. She visited often, and for some 20-plus years she was her parents’ commuting caregiver. Arranging patient recovery support along with in-home health care for her mother who dealt with both heart disease and cancer treatments was not an easy task. Her father also had his share of severe health issues, yet both lived to 88 and 98 years respectively. She spoke in awe of the resilience both parents exhibited throughout their challenges, although they had rather different, highly personal, pathways to recovery.

Ellen moved to Seattle several years ago following her married daughter. She spent the first year looking for an apartment while discovering the city. Seeking friends and community, she joined the League of Women Voters and rose through the ranks to both state and national positions. Her interests included politics, voter issues and nuclear disarmament. She enjoyed joining book clubs at many local libraries and, through an initial academic interest in “Villages,” eventually made her way to WH. Ellen was an early member, joining in the 2015 launch year.

Teaching beckoned Ellen back to the classroom, this time with a focus on adult learners. Currently her students are mostly seniors enrolled in Osher Life Long Learning Institute (commonly referred to as “OLLIE”) programs based on a non-credit college curriculum--part of the Continuing Education Initiative, “Living Well, Dying Well.” The Bernard Osher Foundation endowed this program, offered in every state, for students over 50. Ellen teaches at three locations: Telos at Bellevue College, Creative Retirement Institute at Edmonds Community College, and UW’s OLLIE at Magnuson Park.

To those who know and have worked with Ellen, it is no surprise that it takes three teaching locations to accommodate her intellectual and pedagogic energies! How lucky we are that she still has a lot left over for Wider Horizons!

A Sobering “Must Read” for Today

by Kathleen O’Connor



If there is a must-read book for today, that book is *Death of Democracy: The Rise and Fall of the Weimar Republic* by Benjamin Hett. The author is a Harvard-educated law

professor. He traces post WWI Germany to the final rise of Hitler.

I have long wondered how Hitler actually came to power with his armies, the Brown Shirts, given the fact that he had absolutely no money of his own. What made it possible for him to rise to Führer? This book answered my questions. And it is very disturbing.

In *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (1963), Hannah Arendt, the German political scientist and theorist, makes the point that often there is no one big thing that happens. Totalitarianism can come to pass through largely unnoticed events. This book

could be a playbook for our politics today. The Nazi's steps were so incremental that nothing appeared so horrific all at once. The media was crippled and vilified. There were voices against Hitler, but not a tidal wave. And then, people were caught in the jaws of a vise.

Germany's loss to the Allies was humiliating. Her reparations to the allies were economically devastating. The waves of immigrants from Russia and Poland were overwhelming to a teetering economy. Many of those immigrants were Jewish. To keep a relatively stable political environment, political compromises had to be made. This once proud nation was brought to its knees. Workers who had fueled the economy were now lost and seeking new solutions. Like Germany's, our economy as we once knew it disappeared for many with the 2008 recession.

There is no exact parallel to post WWI Germany. We did not lose a war. But technology has swept out thousands of small businesses. Climate change and globalization have had devastating impact on many industries and communities. With no funds for re-training, many people simply have no hope of keeping or retaining the jobs and way of life they once had. Germany's world had changed. As has ours for different reasons.

I could not recommend any book more highly now. It is sobering in its implications.

Kathleen O'Connor keeps a close eye on health care issues in this country, which she reports on in "The O'Connor Report" (oconnorreport.com). As this review shows, she also keeps up on other national and international issues.



Late-breaking newsy photos above: Members Sandra Wheeler, Joan Bergman and Donna Sunkel present 34 handmade gifts -- this year's Warm for Winter items -- to Wellspring Family Services.

The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 10 am at Donna Sunkel's home and all are welcome.

At the Greyhound Bus Station

by Victoria Bestock

We stood together at the station,
Silently waiting for the bus.

Mother wore one of those lopsided hats I hated,
Wispy gray strands of hair escaping to frame
A tired, lined face.

She made me promise I would visit her next time.
I said I would.

Then we were quiet,
Everything already said,
I thought.

The bus came. She picked up her bag and followed
The procession moving slowly through the door
Into darkness.

On the top step she turned,
One hand on the railing,
The other clutching her bag.

"I love you," she pronounced stiffly.
"I love your house. I love your kids.
Goodbye."

You'd have thought it was the "I love you" that
 would stab my heart
Words I had longed for all my life,
Finally spoken.

But she hadn't said,
"See you in New York next year."
She'd said, "Goodbye."

Victoria Bestock is retired from a 40-year career teaching folk dance to college students, community groups and children. She has performed in and directed a number of dance groups, including--Radost, Koleda, Balkanske Igre, Sevarzapad, He Ari, Ma Ayan, International Folk Dancers and Mandala. Currently she teaches English Country dance to community groups and also directs Nonesuch English Country Dance which recently performed at the Northwest Folklife Festival. She is a docent for the Seattle Japanese Garden and studies Japanese flower arranging.



Victoria in a garden, photographed by her husband Paul