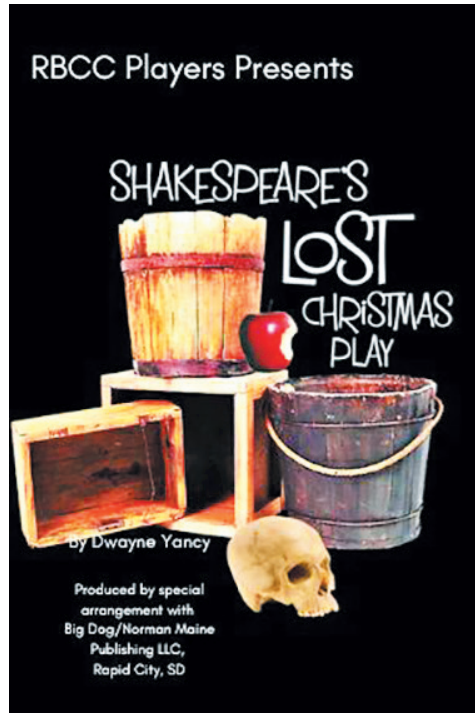


Richmond Beach COMMUNITY NEWS

Four Time First Place Winner of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Neighborhood Newsletter Award

DECEMBER 2023

RBCC Players perform Shakespeare's Lost Christmas Play, Dec. 8 and 9



-PLAYBILL COURTESY OF RBCC PLAYERS

Shakespeare's Lost Christmas Play

When:

Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m.

Where:

Richmond Beach Congregational Church (Bill McLaughlin Theater) at 1512 NW 195 Street, Shoreline

Tickets:

<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/78327>. \$20 general; \$10 students/seniors

By Fia Gibbs

The Wizard of Oz. The Importance of Being Earnest. Arsenic and Old Lace. Godspell. The Sound of Music. Willy Wonka.

Those are but a few of the winter and spring productions performed over the years by The RBCC Players at the bottom of the hill in the Bill McLaughlin Theater, housed in the Richmond Beach Congregational Church at 1512 NW 195 Street, Shoreline. Now, that's what I call local theater.

Starting with 1984's performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's musical *HMS Pinafore*, The RBCC Players have been practicing, singing and acting twice every year, except for two COVID-caused exceptions. Musicals, plays, old-timey live radio broadcast reenactments, mysteries, comedies and dramas have all been performed by amateurs aged from kids to respected elders.

Have you ever wanted to give acting a go . . . or be part of the crew in set design, sound, lights and props needed to put on a show? In a safe environment with a director and producer who each are creative, talented, supportive and positive? I did. Despite feeling scared (truth-be-told, terrified), I tried out. And I am glad I did. I stretched my boundaries. I challenged myself. I grew. And I had such great fun. I was Grace, the elegant and aristocratic "queen" of the duck pond in *Honk!*, the musical adaptation of The Ugly Duckling story; the leather-clad, Harley-riding Ghost of Christmas Past greaser in *A Seussified Christmas Carol*; and Sister Robert Anne . . . a Brooklyn born nun whose dream was to have a one-night stand . . . on Broadway in Carnegie Hall . . . in *Nun-crackers*, *The Nonsense Christmas Musical* set in Mt. St. Helen's Convent's basement.

If you want to check out the players, you can at their annual holiday show. This year it's a comedy—*Shakespeare's Lost Christmas Play*. Here's a snippet.

In the early 1600s in Little-Moldingham-on-Cheese, England, local township actors can't stage their annual Christmas play. Last year's theater fire destroyed it and every script. The director writes Shakespeare and asks him to create a play.

See Shakespeare's Lost Xmas, page 2

Richmond Beach holiday memories

See page 5



- PHOTO BY BETTY NGAN

Community Tree Lighting – Dec. 2



- PHOTO BY KATHRYN MUELLER 2021

This year's community tree lighting event was held on **December 2** in the parking lot of the Richmond Beach Congregational Church (1512 NW 195 Street, Shoreline).

Thank you RBCC for providing the space for this festive annual event. See photos in January issue.

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A Miyawaki urban forest planting event at the Shoreline Historic Museum, Dec. 9

By Lewis Brown

The board of the Shoreline Historical Museum approved a most creative project for the field next to the museum building at 18501 Linden Avenue North. A group of dedicated volunteers calling themselves the Miyawaki Forest Friends are preparing a huge planting event on **December 9** and want to invite the entire Richmond Beach community.

I met with Kenneth Doult (executive director of the museum), Sally Yamasaki and Sarah Phillips to find out about this innovative use of the space with huge ecological benefits.

Lewis Brown (LB): How did this project begin?

Sally Yamasaki/Sarah Phillips (SM/SP): The idea came serendipitously during a conversation in a backyard barbeque. As we studied the idea, we hatched the concept of filling a section of the space in the field with an urban forest. The design means our native and natural museum exhibit will be housed in a forest. And not just any planted forest, but a Miyawaki urban forest.

LB: What is a Miyawaki urban forest?

SM/SP: A Miyawaki urban forest is a small forest that can be planted in urban spaces. Ours will be planted with 43 native species, using 1,200 trees. The unique approach means the forest will grow 10 times faster and 30 times denser than a traditional planted forest; and in three years, the forest will be self-sustaining, not needing watering or weeding. Our sponsor SUGi explains the basics on their website: sugiproject.com/blog/the-miyawaki-method-for-creating-forests.

LB: Tell me about planting day.

SM/SP: Everyone is invited! Bring your family. The morning of **Saturday, December 9**, we will dedicate the space, then start planting at 11:00 a.m. We can have 100 planters (young ones can plant) throughout the day, closing at 2:00 p.m. We will have refreshments and other kids' activities. The museum will be open for tours as well. Come be a part of this historical event!

See Miyakami urban forest, page 2

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Being well

Healthy holiday expectations

By Carol Frieberg

The holidays are here, and it's important to remember that our outlook and expectations have just as much to do with our holiday joy as our resources and circumstances.

With some thoughtful planning and a little attitude adjustment, it's possible to keep stress to a minimum and maintain a happy spirit. Below are some tips for a healthier holiday experience.

Think about your expectations

Be honest about what you want, and be realistic about what is possible. Then, consider these two rules: Keep it simple and don't over-commit. Consider scaling back your plans. Sometimes less than, is really more than.

Accept people as they are

Don't expect others to behave as you would like them to. This is a recipe for disappointment and misery. Recognize that the people in your life will celebrate the holidays as they want to and not the way you want them to. Try to change and control only what is yours—your response.

Remember, even the best-laid plans can go awry

This goes back to expectations. Expect that some problems are possible or even likely—inclement weather, delayed guests, an overcooked dinner. Try to approach unexpected challenges with patience and a sense of humor. Sometimes the funniest memories are those that involve things that go wrong.

Spend time outdoors

A final idea, for both stress and a healthy approach to the holidays, is to get yourself and your family outdoors—walk around the block after dinner, start your day with a bolt up the neighborhood stairs, bundle up and explore a new neighborhood on foot to enjoy the holiday lights. Not only will you boost your metabolism, but your emotional state will get a boost as well.

Remember, the holidays are short, as is life. Make the most of them.

From Miyakami urban forest, page 1

Here is the link to more information:

shorelinehistoricalmuseum.org/programs-and-community.

In next month's paper we'll be hearing more about our Miyawaki urban forest—an exploration of this powerful ecological movement.

Lewis at large in RB

Don't be a car prowler victim

By Lewis Brown

I sat down with Detective Kieland, our Shoreline Community Engagement Officer, to chat about preventing crime against my vehicle.

"I looked at the report on the Shoreline website and saw that we had 345 thefts from vehicles reported in Shoreline in 2022. We here in Richmond Beach have some of those numbers. Are crimes against vehicles common in Richmond Beach?" I asked.

Detective Kieland explained that vehicle prowls are one of the most common forms of crime in Richmond Beach. "Opportunistic thieves will target vehicles they can easily check for unlocked doors or open windows. We call them vehicle prowls because they are just prowling for accessible and unlocked car doors."

"Do they find car doors unlocked?," I asked with surprise.

"Believe it or not, yes. People forget, or are in a hurry, or think they will not be a victim. These thieves will work in pairs or threes, park in a neighborhood and just walk the street, even onto driveways, pulling on handles. If your car is locked, they move on. Car prowls are most common when it is dark. Nighttime means the streets are often empty."

"Can't we catch them with security cameras?," I asked.

"Cameras can help us, especially if the view is well-lit and the view of their face is clear. When we have repeat criminals, gathering several clear evidential videos can help us catch and convict. However, many security videos are poor quality, or too far away, or the criminal hides their face, and we cannot use the camera shots."

"Most of the time they just steal whatever they find in an open vehicle?," I wondered.

Yes, they are looking for valuables, but they might also take little items, like sunglasses, or chargers, or a jacket. Especially if they can see something of value in the vehicle, they will make an effort to steal it. That is when you might see the thief break a car window."

"So, what can I do to ensure I am not likely to be a victim of theft from my vehicle?," I asked.

1. Don't get complacent. Build in safe habits. Roll up the windows and lock your doors, even if you are parking for a short time.
2. Don't leave valuables in the vehicle, especially items that you would not want to lose.
3. If you must leave items in the vehicle because they are part of the vehicle or equipment you use whenever you drive for work, secure them or hide them. If they are not visible, they are less of a target.
4. If you can park in a residential garage, you are less likely to be a victim than owners who park on the street.

I thanked Detective Kieland for these suggestions.

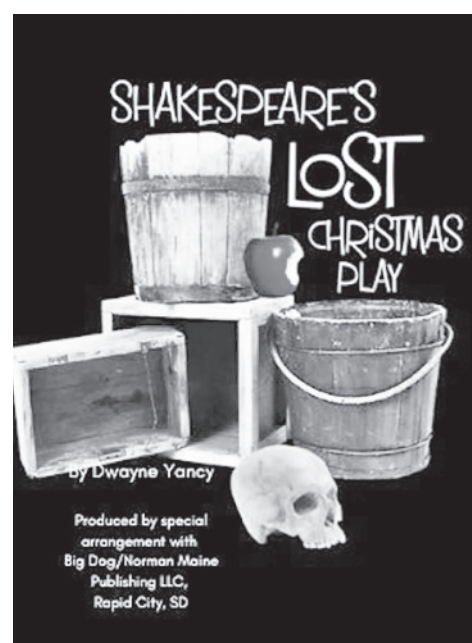
My vehicle is locked and off the street. Oh, you can still see the canister of wipes, though. If a thief must break a window for wipes, I understand. (Of course, I will be furious.)

From Shakespeare, page 1

While awaiting hopefully good news from Shakespeare, bad news arrives. The Plague Doctor and the Royal Herald announce an impending plague. All entertainment is canceled. Everything social is banned save for one category. As in social distancing, everyone must stay at least 6 feet apart. Is all lost? Despite the plague, the director finds a legal loophole: If their play isn't entertaining, it can't be canceled because it isn't entertainment.

I am going. Actually, I wouldn't miss it—it will be entertaining despite the legal loophole. I hope some of you can join me. And even become part of The RBCC Players. Want to learn more about the troupe? Go to rbccplayers@gmail.com.

Stay tuned in January for the February plays, June musical, other offerings and opportunities. . . for the RBCC Players' 2024 season.



RICHMOND BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.richmondbeachwa.org
PO Box 60186, Shoreline, WA 98160-0186

The mission of the Richmond Beach Community Association Board is to promote the well-being of the Richmond Beach community.

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RICHMOND BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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You can help build community together by joining the Richmond Beach Community Association today! Support community events, neighborhood enhancements, communication and fun!



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Richmond Beach COMMUNITY NEWS

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SUBMISSIONS

The RBCN welcomes submissions including articles, letters to the editor and kudos. Submissions must be relevant to our community, copyright-free and submitted by the 13th of the month prior to publication. Electronic submissions are preferred.

For verification purposes only, submissions must include name, address, email address and phone number. Submissions are subject to editing.

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Halloween Carnival—a success!

By Allison Taylor

The 2023 Halloween Carnival was a fantastic event—from the “couldn’t be better” weather to the enthusiastic volunteers and the even more enthusiastic participants. The day proved to be another example as to why we live, and volunteer, in Richmond Beach.

Returning coordinators Sherry Edwards (volunteer coordinator), Brittany Gallaher (concessions), Julie Vaughn (games), Tasha Hulak (prizes) and Liza Ragan (cakewalk) should be proud to have another year of managing this event behind them.

The team will be approaching current Syre families in the spring to pass the baton of event management to people who are more connected to the school community. Of the “carnival ladies,” as my family calls them, only Brittany has current ties to the school. The rest of us have adult children or teens wrapping up at Shorewood.

The carnival wouldn’t be possible without Syre sharing their space—see the kudos article for the many thanks we owe to the school community for granting use of the site and to the many employees who gave time to make sure we had access as needed.

Our soft opening for people with physical or sensory disabilities started the event off in a celebratory way, marred only by a brief pause in festivities when our new popcorn machine set off the fire alarm. We are lucky our Shoreline Fire Department and Syre Principal Michelle Carroll were close by to get us back in action again.

This year saw a level of participation (as measured by ticket sales) like 2022; but lines for ticket purchases were shorter, thanks to a new RBCA purchase of additional Square readers and a higher number of volunteers working the ticket sales. It was our priority to get families in the door and ready to play!

Special recognition is due to the City of Shoreline, and specifically neighborhood coordinator Constance Perenyi, for the attention and support provided for this event via a generous grant of \$5,000. As board liaison, Allison Taylor worked with Constance through the grant qualification process.

As a wrap-up reflection, those of us who coordinated the event were thrilled to see that teen participation did not decrease with the elimination of the graduation requirement for volunteer hours. We were honored to be able to provide a soft opening with accommodations

Anina’s Corner

Richmond Beach winter/holiday memories

By Anina Coder Sill

My husband and I bought my folks’ house in 1982, so I have memories from my childhood and from raising our own family. We enjoyed the Richmond Beach Santa fire truck when we heard the siren and holiday music and the Christmas ship with music blaring and decorative lights.

When our son was in high school, we had the pleasure of attending his holiday musical performances. We loved watching the kids open their prizes on Christmas Eve while saving the best one for the morning. My mom once gifted 110 little presents for the grandkids and family because the unwrapping was so much fun.

Occasionally, we had snow (I noted snow on 12/18/68 in my diary). A friend and I doubled up and sledged down 196th, ending abruptly in a ditch with a broken arm. We’d dig out the sleds, mittens, hats and snowpants; slip plastic bags over socks and then into boots or shoes and spread towels at the front door so the kids could shed soggy clothes. In December 2022, when we really got iced and snowed in, there were deer hoofprints in the yard!

My 1968 diary includes a list of Christmas presents I received, including a record player, two records, stationary, a Lite-Brite and camera film. I bought presents with money I earned from babysitting (25 cents to \$1 per hour) and 5 cents

for each lunch I made for my dad, myself and siblings. My best friend and I made bows and sold them door to door for 10 cents each.

We went ice skating at Highland Ice Arena on Aurora and walked home. (The arena opened in 1962 and family-run until it was demolished in 2022.)

We had a two-week vacation from school, watched Laugh-In on TV when Tiny Tim was on the show and frequently went to the beach.

In 1970, I wrote that friends and I rode bikes to Value Mart (now Fred Meyer), had Girl Scout bake sales, went caroling and sang at a resting home. (I should have written rest home, but resting home makes sense.)

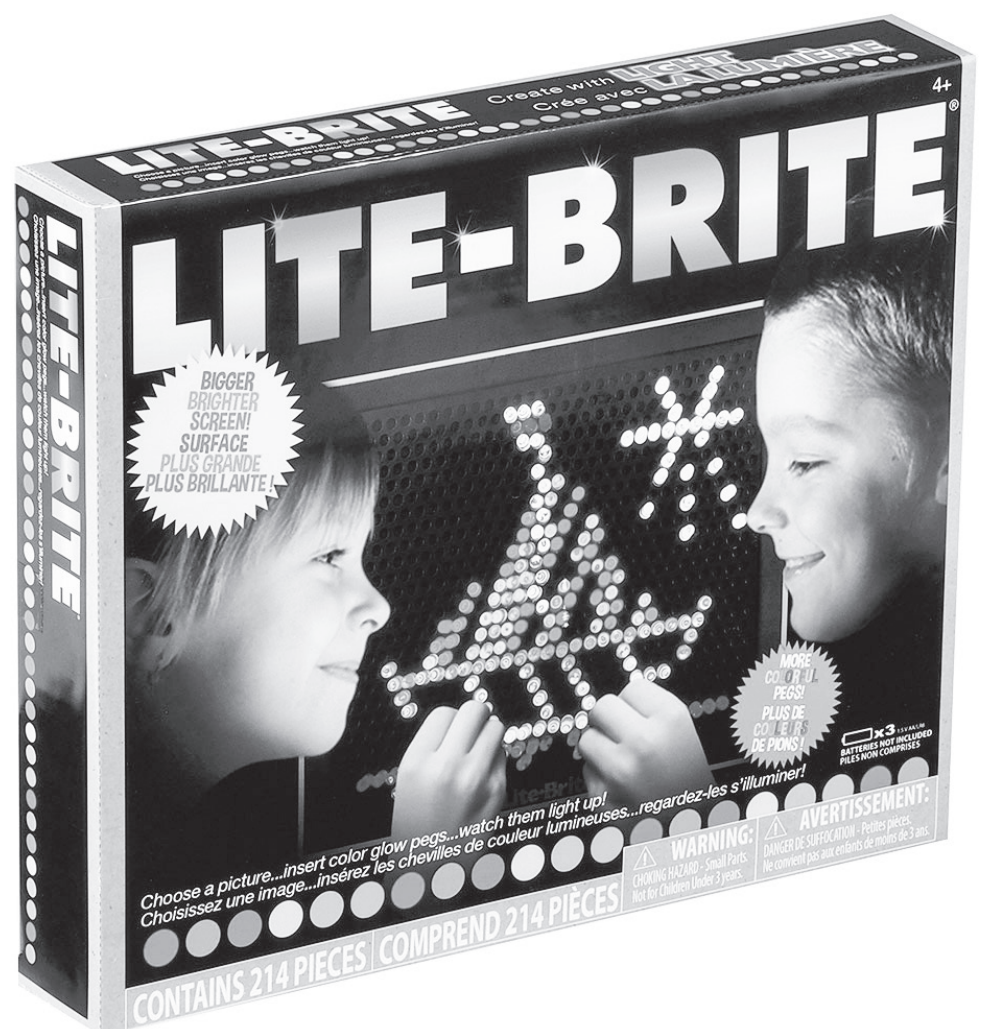
My dad was a Richmond Beach volunteer fire firefighter, and we attended an annual fire department party at the little station on 20th.

I wrote that my New Year’s resolution was to “write legabally.”

In November 1970, football player Sunny Sixkiller came to Einstein Junior High “... so the guys could ask him questions. The girls didn’t get to see him.”

Mr. Godfrey, from Godfrey’s Fix It Shop at 2411 NW 195th Place brought me metal crutches to replace the wooden ones I was using. I used to think it would be fun to have crutches, but after I dislocated my knee that winter, I found out quickly that it was very hard to rely on them.

I hope you and yours have a lovely winter season—we can brighten up one another’s lives a little bit, whether or not we hang up lights.



LITE BRITE

-PHOTO COURTESY ANINA CODER-SILL

See Halloween Carnival, page 4

From Halloween Carnival, page 3

for those who needed it. We were humbled by the gratitude expressed by the Mary's Place community, who were the recipients of all leftover kitchen concession consumables.

We are excited to welcome new community volunteers to usher this event forward. Interested in being one of those people? Want more information? Email Allison at rbca4@gmail.com.



-ALL CARNIVAL PHOTOS BY PHOTO BY TASHA HULAK, JULIE VAUGHN AND ALLISON TAYLOR



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Richmond Beach Holiday Memories

We asked the community for their favorite Richmond Beach holiday memories and traditions and heard from a few of you in time for the December issue. What great reminders of this amazing community!

Tree lighting event for the Santa-cautious

By Chris Youngs

My family and I moved to Richmond Beach in the summer of 2019. That winter, our first in our new home and experiencing all the frenetic energy of holidays with a 4- and 2-year-old, we read about the Richmond Beach Tree Lighting.

The previous year, we'd tried to take them to see Santa, but our oldest was feeling maximum stranger danger from this strange man in a bright red suit and refused the photo op.

Rather than push our luck at the tree lighting, both kids prepared their letters for Santa, and I distinctly remember how excited they were to hand him their letters, and no more. No pressure to sit on a strange lap or ask gifts of a stranger. They were able to talk to the Big Man on their terms, know their letters had been delivered in person and then peacefully enjoy their cider and candy canes, while watching other kids get their photo ops . . . from a distance.

We love the community the event brings and its ability to deliver holiday cheer to one and all, however

they're willing to embrace it—up close or at a reasonable distance.

Sharing holiday cheer to new residents

By Zack Holliday

Our family moved to Richmond Beach right after Christmas. Literally the day we moved in, one of our new neighbors brought us a gift of some homemade Baileys. The day after, another neighbor brought us a gift of some homemade holiday cookies. We hadn't even unpacked our boxes, and we were already feeling the sense of community that we've come to appreciate from Richmond Beach.

Christmas morning Santa, delivered by fire truck

By Katie Klein

Our kids love it when it snows in the winter and the whole neighborhood comes out and sleds and hangs out together! It is awesome how everyone shares sleds, brings out hot cocoa and neighbors let the children use their hilly driveways to sled!

Personally, I love when Santa comes on the Shoreline fire truck. We all come out and get a family picture with Santa and visit with neighbors on Christmas morning. It was my own childhood memory, but now I love sharing it with my kids.

Saltwater park proposal

By Brittany Gallaher

I grew up in RB and this community has always been an important part of me. When my husband proposed 15 years ago on New Year's Eve, he picked the Richmond Beach Saltwater Park as the perfect place, knowing how much I loved Richmond Beach! He placed giant signs all down Richmond Beach Road saying "Brittany Will You Marry Me" and met me at the beach with all our family.

Now each year at New Year's we walk to the beach to remember that perfect-for-me proposal! We are grateful to still be living in Richmond Beach and raising our three girls here!



SANTA AT THE RBCA TREE LIGHTING EVENT IN 2021

- PHOTO BY BETTY NGAN



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Board Busy-ness

By Adam Star

As autumn leaves pave the way for winter festivities, our community has been bustling with activity. Let's take a moment to celebrate the remarkable efforts of some of our dedicated board members.

First up, let's all appreciate Allison's spooktacular success with the Halloween Carnival. Once again her meticulous planning and hard work ensured yet another incredible Halloween Carnival for our community. The laughter and joy shared with all the wonderfully costumed children on that spooky afternoon and early evening were

thanks to her and the carnival volunteers' dedication and creativity. Whenever there is anything to do, Allison seems to be everywhere at once for us. Her generosity knows no limits it seems!

Next, thank you to Patrick for paving the way for the upcoming Turkey Day Fun Run. Patrick has donned his running shoes, collaborating with the city of Shoreline to prepare for the upcoming event. His commitment to promoting health and community spirit on Thanksgiving morning shines through as we eagerly anticipate this festive and fitness-oriented event.

A shout-out to Zack and all his hard work preparing for our shining Holiday Tree Lighting event. Zack is not only finding the perfect spot for our this tree lighting event, but has also been in touch with none other than Santa himself. Rumor has it that Santa will once again make a special appearance at the event, adding an extra touch of magic to our holiday celebrations.

Next, we say thank you to Lewis. Not only our community president, Lewis continues to wear multiple hats with grace. Alongside his regular duties, he dedicates time to delve into Richmond Beach's past and present, actively engaging with our community. His passion for preserving our history is truly commendable.

Finally, thank you to Chris Y., who excels in coordinating our community paper. His collaborative efforts with the production manager and the entire team ensure that we stay well-informed and entertained each month. Not one to rest on his laurels, Chris is already looking ahead, planning for the much-anticipated Strawberry Festival in 2024.

As we embrace the changing seasons, let's cherish and appreciate the remarkable individuals who contribute to making our community vibrant and connected. Their dedication reminds us that the strength of our community lies in the passion and effort of each of its members.

Welcome contributor, Fia Gibbs



- PHOTO COURTESY FIA GIBBS

RBCN welcomes our newest contributor, Fia Gibbs. Gibbs is a Seattle native, Ballard bred. Living in Richmond Beach since 2004, she is married with one daughter and two rescue mutts. She is licensed as a registered nurse and an attorney in Washington, and she is dually professionally certified as an end-of-life doula (EOLD) for humans and companion animals. Her survival tool kit includes dark humor (because it could be worse) and cookbooks. Her philosophy: laugh, cook, learn and, most importantly, serve others and be kind.

Kudos

By Allison Taylor

KUDOS to the community support for the Halloween Carnival—check out the list of over 175 people on page 7 who made the event possible. While the team of **Sherry Edwards, Tasha Hulak, Julie Vaughn, Brittany Gallaher, Liza Ragan** (plus RBCA Board Member **Allison Taylor**) have years of experience putting this party on, this year welcomed many new contributors.

Big thanks to Syre employees **Jake Goett** (logistics), **Barb Grieg** (kitchen) and **Vien Nguyen** (facilities) who helped with all the ins and outs of working on site! A special round of thanks to Principal **Michelle Carroll** and the **Shoreline Fire Department**, who arrived right away when we had an alarm malfunction, and to the **YMCA** team for letting us start loading in during aftercare. We welcomed new volunteer **Carol Zukerman** who did a little of everything to support the carnival. **Recology CleanScapes** provided compost, waste and recycling cans for the event; and, of course, it couldn't be done without the (not so) mini grant of \$5,000 from the **City of Shoreline!**

Also, a huge shout out to **Young Ritzo**, who continues her ongoing work with the community newspaper, from graphic design to production support. Board member **Chris Youngs** has taken on the article management for the paper—thank him when you next see him!

December book sale by Friends of RB Library

By Karen Thielke

The Friends of the Richmond Beach Library (**fribl.org**), a nonprofit organization of volunteers who share a mission to promote, advocate for, support and enhance the work of the Richmond Beach Library, will feature a sale of special gift-worthy books and great reading material for the month of December. The books will be located on shelves in the lobby of the Richmond Beach Library at 19601 21st Avenue NW, Shoreline.

We have also been saving up holiday cooking magazines to inspire your festive menus and cookie-giving plans. This month there will be bins of overflow books for sale, including mysteries and children's titles.

Our goal is to raise \$500 to finish out the year—the funds we raise support library programs for children and adults. And, thank you to our generous donors who keep us supplied with books to fill our sale shelves in the lobby.

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Thank you 2023 Halloween Carnival Volunteers

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If you volunteered and your name is not listed, please accept our apologies—your time and contribution matters to us!



-ALL CARNIVAL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY TASHA HULAK, JULIE VAUGHN AND ALLISON TAYLOR

Richmond Beach Cooks!

Almond Cake with Cardamom and Pistachio

By Suzanne McMurry

This cake has the sophistication of being an afternoon delight and may find itself at the adult-only table. Don't get me wrong—my three kids loved this cake as well. I found them nibbling off pieces after school.

The almond flavor was profound, but not overwhelming, while the cake was moist and truly enjoyable. I used salted and roasted pistachios for the topping, gently pulsed in the food processor.

The recipe calls for a circular pan, which I used, but found I couldn't get the cake out of it! If you'd like to transfer it to a cake platter or such, I'd recommend using a springform pan or placing oiled parchment paper on the bottom. For a nice looking cake, take the cake out of the pan within 10 minutes after removing from the oven.

Almond Cake with Cardamom and Pistachio recipe

(Recipe from Soraya Nazarian, adapted by Joan Nathan, further modified by Suzanne McMurry)
Yield: one 9-inch cake (10 to 12 servings)

Ingredients

- ½ cup vegetable oil, plus additional for pan
- 7 large eggs, yolks separated from whites
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon almond extract
- 4½ cups almond flour
- 2 teaspoons ground cardamom
- 1 to 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar, for dusting
- 3 to 4 tablespoons finely chopped pistachio nuts, for garnish

Step 1

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Oil a 9-inch round or square pan and set aside. Using a stand mixer, whisk egg whites until stiff but not dry, and set aside.

Step 2

In a medium bowl, combine egg yolks and sugar, and whisk to blend. Whisk in almond extract and vegetable oil. Add almond flour and cardamom. Gently stir a third of the whites into the batter, then gently fold in the rest until just incorporated. This will be a thick batter to start; however, as the egg whites are folded in, it will become easier to work with.

Step 3

Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45-50 minutes. Allow to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the pan and finish cooling on a rack. To decorate, dust with confectioners' sugar and chopped pistachios.

Optional additions include: 2 teaspoons orange zest (added to the batter).

Once finished, top with a dollop of whipped cream and fresh raspberries or blueberries for serving.



ALMOND CAKE WITH CARDOMOM AND PISTACHIO

- PHOTO BY SUZANNE MCMURRY

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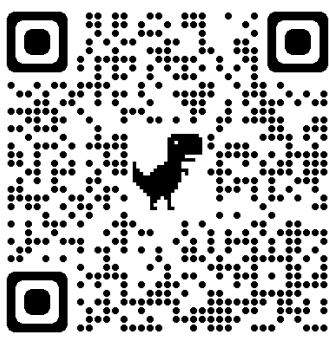
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