



# *The Bulletin*



*Volume LXXXI No. 1*

*The Seattle School Retirees' Association*

*September-October, 2025*

1.

**News from SSRA Acting President Julee Neuhart**

## **A NEW MEETING SITE FOR 2025/26**

The Seattle School Retirees' Association (SSRA) will hold our quarterly meetings at a new site for this school year. **Ivar's Salmon House**, located at 401 NE Northlake Way on the north shore of Lake Union, will be our new home. There is lots of free parking near the front door and across the street on Northlake Way.

The October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. with a social hour. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Our presenters will speak at 12:15 p.m. There presentation plus Q & A will be from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

We will have two speakers at our first meeting this fall. ALISON GAZAREK and BETH FREITAS CLARK are educational consultants with the firm Intentional Futures. They will be speaking on the topic of the use of Artificial Intelligence in Public Education. Both Alison and Beth are experienced teachers who have worked for several years in under-achieving schools. During their work with Intentional Futures, they have partnered with the Gates Foundation, Microsoft, Equal Opportunity Schools, the World Health Organization, and other groups to bring innovation and best practices to public schools. Please join Alison and Beth for an interesting and educational presentation.

### **LUNCH MENUS**

No more box lunches this year. Attendees will need to choose a lunch entrée from the following:

- IVAR'S WORLD-FAMOUS FISH AND CHIPS
- BLACKENED WILD SALMON CAESAR SALAD
- ALASKAN TRUE COD PICCATA
- VEGGIE BURGER

The lunch will include your entrée, coffee or tea, and a brownie or cookie. The price is \$20.00. The restaurant will be open during our lunch. Attendees can buy a beverage from the bar. Wait staff will be available to take orders.

Again this year, Patricia MacGowan has volunteered to keep track of our attendees and the lunch choices. PLEASE CONTACT PATRICIA BY EMAIL AT [CMACGOWAN@COMCAST.NET](mailto:CMACGOWAN@COMCAST.NET) OR BY PHONE AT 206-851-0232 NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 24, 2025. Tell Patricia which of the 4 entrees you prefer. When you check in at Ivar's and pay for your lunch, you will receive a lunch ticket for the entrée you have chosen.

**SEE YOU ON OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

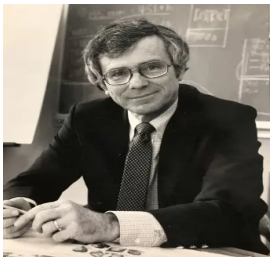


### *In Memoriam*

It saddens us to learn that the following SSRA members have recently passed away:

David Collins of Kent  
 Kathleen Holmes of Seattle  
 Robert Macklin of Columbus, OH  
 David Starr of Moses Lake  
 Sarah Thomas of Seattle  
 Claudia Allan of Bellingham  
 Marilyn Biely of Seattle  
 Theodore Howard of Seattle

Members who worked with those we have lost are welcome to submit short notes for the Bulletin about our lost members and their work in Seattle Schools. Send information by email to the Bulletin Editor, Joani Harr, at [joaniharr@aol.com](mailto:joaniharr@aol.com).



#### **PAUL HOERLEIN**

NOV. 17, 1928 TO MAY 25, 2025

Paul began his career as an elementary teacher in Seattle Public Schools, later serving as principal and assistant superintendent. After retiring in 1984 Paul continued his lifelong passion for education, working on a project to preserve SPS history and serving as an adjunct professor for teacher training at SPU. Please honor his legacy by donating to the Seattle Schools Scholarship Fund. A celebration of Paul's life will be held this fall. For details and to share memories: [www.funerals.coop/obituaries](http://www.funerals.coop/obituaries)

### *SSRA Leadership for 2024-2025*

Acting President.....Julee Neuhart  
 Past President.....Pat Cygan  
 Chairman of the Board.....Edith Ruby

Recording Secretary.....Mary Wallon  
 Treasurer.....Sue Battin

### *Committee Chairs*

By laws.....Roxanne Trees  
 Budget.....Julee Neuhart, Interim  
 Community Services.....Jody Lemke  
 Drawings and Baskets.....Jody Lemke  
 Health Services.....Myrna Muto  
 Interim Historian.....Eleanor Toews  
 Legislative/PAC... ..Edith Ruby and Mary Wallon  
 May Luncheon.....Open  
 Membership.....Julee Neuhart  
 Newsletter.....Joani Harr  
 Parliamentary.....Edith Ruby  
 Programs.....Pat Cygan  
 Scholarships.....Patricia MacGowan  
 SEED Grants.....John Thorp  
 Website.....Eleanor Toews/Ron Cygan  
 Sunshine.....Marcia Lalonde  
 WSSRA's NW-2 Representative. .Patricia MacGowan

#### **BARBARA NILSON**

AUGUST 18, 1928 TO APRIL 28, 2025

Former owner weekly newspaper/columnist  
 English/Journalism teacher for 24 years  
 published author of award-winning  
 historical books. Barbara attained her two  
 goals in life: to be published and to visit all  
 the continents. Her remains will be piped to  
 a niche at the Maple Valley-Hobart  
 Cemetery on November 1. Please don't  
 send flowers, instead donate money to your  
 favorite charity for children.

**SSRA's Bulletin** is published four times per year by the Seattle School Retirees' Association. We plan to hold 4 members' meetings for the 2025-2026 school year. Even though our SODO office is closed, you can leave messages for us at the office number (206 521-5170) or by email at [ssra44@juno.com](mailto:ssra44@juno.com). Our address is: P.O. Box 31027 Wallingford Post Office 1329 N 47<sup>th</sup> St. Seattle, WA 98103



**Seattle Education Enhancement Dividend (or S.E.E.D. Grant)  
Classroom Grant Application  
October 1, 2025 to March 1, 2026**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SSRA MEMBER? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO Best Phone Number/Times To Reach You? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Request? SSRA MEMBERS MAY REQUEST UP TO \$550 IN A SCHOOL YEAR. \_\_\_\_\_

A NON-MEMBER MAY REQUEST UP TO \$300 **ONE TIME ONLY.** \_\_\_\_\_

Your School and Its Address? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Position/Role? \_\_\_\_\_ Your e-mail? \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Amount Requested? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Benefitting Students? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to whom and where? \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Alert Notice:** Usually each school year falls into 2 calendar years [e.g., Sept. 2024 to June 2025]. If SSRA were to send you SEED Grants of \$600 or more in the same calendar year [=Jan. to Dec.], both SSRA and you would be required by the Internal Revenue Service to fill out a **1099 form**—thereby reporting that sum to be a potential addition to your income for that tax year. **Thus, SSRA Members, if you apply for a SEED grant in 2 different but adjacent school years, please space your requests for S.E.E.D. grants so that the total for both grant requests will not equal \$600 or more dollars between January and December of the same calendar year.**

Is This A Combined Project? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If combined, with whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Is This A Summer School Project? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Is This An After-School Project? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Briefly describe how this grant will be used to enhance students' learning? (Use back if necessary.)

What specifically do you plan to purchase with this S.E.E.D. grant? (Use back of this sheet if necessary.)

Project's Start Date = \_\_\_\_\_ Project's Finish Date = \_\_\_\_\_

+++++  
Next, you will need to show this request to your school's PRINCIPAL OR PROGRAM MANAGER FOR HIS/HER SIGNATURE. **YOUR PRINCIPAL/PROGRAM MANAGER'S SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PRINCIPAL or PROGRAM MANAGER'S SIGNATURE** Please PRINT Principal/Program Manager's Name.

MAIL A PAPER APPLICATION TO John Thorp at 11033 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98125 OR  
send application by email to jhthorp3@outlook.com  
(We must receive the application by March 31, 2026)

## SSRA's Committee Reports

### Health Committee

Myrna Muto, Chair

### When to Consider Virtual Care

What is virtual care? Whether you live in a rural or urban community, virtual care can be a great choice for connecting with healthcare. You can save drive time, avoid bad weather and stay home when it's not the best time to be in a clinic where you could infect others.

If your primary care clinic offers video visits, you maintain continuity of care with your health care team, whether on the road or traveling. Information and care recommendations are entered into your electronic health record.

There are three main types of virtual care (telemedicine or telehealth): messaging, video visits to your home and video visits at a clinic.

**Messaging.** You and your healthcare professional exchange information via a secure messaging platform. This can include questions about a condition, medications or follow-up from a previous appointment. Your clinician usually responds within 24 hours or less. Messaging may lead to a video visit or an in-person appointment.

**Video visit to your home.** Through your health system's patient portal, you can set up a video appointment with a member of your healthcare team, just as you would with an in-person appointment. Just as with an office visit, hearing your story about how something happened, symptoms you are experiencing, medication side effects and more, can help your clinician make an informed diagnosis.

During a video visit, your clinician may also order other services or arrange to have a specialist connect with your visit. You can invite a family member or friend to join the visit to provide an extra set of ears.

**Video visit at the clinic.** Another variation of a video visit is making an in-office appointment but then connecting with a specialist online. This is helpful for patients who may not have stable internet connections.

**On-demand care.** Your health system may offer other forms of virtual care, such as on-demand care via a mobile app. This service is typically available 24/7 every day. On-demand care can focus on an urgent problem, but you can also schedule an appointment and arrange to receive helpful reminders about prescriptions, lab work, follow-up appointments and more.

Your in-person and virtual providers collaborate on your care through a shared medical record. However, the level of integration varies widely across health care organizations.

For more information: [newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org](https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org), Mayo Clinic Q&A: When to consider virtual care, Patty Miller, June 3, 2025

(committee reports continued).

Scholarship Committee

Patricia MacGowan, Chair

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

Congratulations to our high school seniors awarded the Lynn Fuller and Phil Kunkel \$3000 scholarships.

JANE DOWLING  
ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL  
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY



JULIA WRIGHT  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



MILLA PAINCHAND  
NATHAN HALE HIGH SCHOOL  
GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY



LOGAN BEHRBAUM  
WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY





### **James Madison Middle School**

In the late 1920s, the Seattle School District decided that an intermediate school was needed to relieve overcrowding in the elementary schools of West Seattle. Land was purchased in 1927 and the new building opened in 1929.

During the planning stage, the school was called West Seattle Intermediate School. In February 1928, it was officially named James Madison Intermediate School for the fourth president of the United States.

When it opened in 1929, the school was called James Madison Junior High School. The building was designed for a capacity of 1,300 students, with the option to expand to house 1,750 with additions. The floor plan was similar to that of the other three intermediate schools constructed during this period, but Madison's architectural details were unique. Madison is the only school building with three-story brick 20th Century Gothic stylistic features designed by the district's third architect, Floyd Naramore. The building features buttresses with cast stone caps, pointed-arched entries, and label molding on some windows.

The initial student body consisted of 7th and 8th graders from Alki, Gatewood, Fauntleroy, Jefferson, and Lafayette. Ninth graders were added the next year, bringing enrollment to 1,212. In September 1931, an addition to the north end of the building opened with four more classrooms, a study hall, and a conference room. This 'pavilion' addition had a projecting central bay with a stepped cornice above the second-floor windows and brick buttresses.

The school paper, the *Madisonian* (1930-51), first appeared as a Christmas gift to all pupils. A Japanese cherry tree, planted in the northeast corner of the lawn in front of the building, was dedicated on February 18, 1932, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth.

Students from Hughes joined Madison in September 1938. During the 1938-39 school year Inez Stark's art classes painted four murals. Two in the library depict the activities of students at the school. Another on one wall of the study hall focuses on the "Four Freedoms" and was inspired by the Atlantic Charter. The fourth, on the opposite wall, depicts the industries of the Pacific Northwest.

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Madison sponsored several annual events in the late 1940s. A Christmas tree contributed by the Boys' Club was trimmed by the Girls' Club. At Christmas time, students caroled in the halls and held an inspirational program in the assembly room. A spring concert took place when lilacs bloomed, and girls "come forth in their long dresses and the boys don their best white shirts." In the mid-1960s there was still a Christmas assembly and a spring concert that were so popular that all 1,000 tickets for both performances sold out in just three days.

The school's first principal, J. W. Scudder, held that position until 1956. By 1961, rising elementary students from Schmitz Park, Fairmount Park, Genesee Hill, and Cooper also came to Madison, and enrollment stood at 1,650. However, by 1973, Cooper students shifted to Boren and enrollment dropped to approximately 1,400. In 1972, a new gymnasium opened with a weight room and gymnastic equipment. From September 1982 through June 1989, Madison housed only 7th and 8th graders.

In 1992, Madison became one of only three middle schools in the United States to participate in Stanford University's innovative Accelerated Schools Project. This project aimed to do away with labels such as "gifted" and "remedial" and challenge all students equally.

In June 1993, students from the metal and wood shop class won the statewide Solar Vehicle Competition with the boats they constructed during and after school. Madison received the 1997 Governor's Award for the state's best middle school drug and alcohol prevention program. A series of student-support projects, including an auction, which raised \$23,000 annually, stemmed from a seven-year partnership with Nordstrom.

In 2002, the school was designated a City of Seattle Landmark. In 2005, a BEX II Capital Levy provided funds for the historic renovation and the construction of an eight-classroom addition. Bassetti Architects served as project architects and the scope of work included installation of a geothermal system, the first geothermal project in the district to provide heat and cooling for an entire building. The 250 wells were constructed 150 feet below the sports field. In 2022, a new 12,500-square-foot, two-story addition on the north side of the school was completed and included six new general classrooms, two new science classrooms, and learning support spaces. Funded by BEX V and a State of Washington Distressed Schools grant, the addition was designed by Studio Meng Strazzara and the work was performed while the school remained open. Hallways in the new addition feature 'learning seats,' where students can sit down in the hallway to do work. The walls in common spaces are covered with corkboard and similar surfaces to facilitate tacking things up. The Madison mascot, the Bulldog, is featured in one stairwell fashioned from ApplePly, a premium type of plywood. One existing classroom had to be reoriented—now narrower but longer—to facilitate hallway space tying together the addition to the older building.

A project to improve the field was scheduled for summer 2023, which included the construction of a synthetic turf, multipurpose sports field and the installation of six light poles to help minimize sky glow.

### Summer 2025 Legislative Report A Call to Action!

Your SSRA Legislative co-chairs, Edith Ruby and Mary Wallon, are taking a summer break from article writing and taking advantage of the writing skills of WSSRA's legislative coordinator, Emmett Mills. For a more detailed account of actions in the 2025 legislative session see Emmett's article in WSSRA's July, August, September *Journal*. Note particularly Emmett's call to action. Seattle area legislators are powerful players in Olympia. Our senators should be thanked for passing SB 5085 restoring an ongoing COLA to Plan 1 retirees. The important message to House members is our disappointment at their failure to approve SB 5085, the only bill which would give Plan 1 retirees the same COLA benefit received by all other state retirees. We strongly urge House members to pass SB 5085 in the 2026 legislative session.

Please read through to the end of the article, as it contains an important call to action. As you may already know, earlier this year, the Washington State Legislature came very close to passing Senate Bill 5085, which would finally restore an ongoing COLA for TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees. The bill would merge TRS 1 and PERS 1, which are both underfunded, with LEOFF 1, a pension plan for law enforcement officers and firefighters that is overfunded by around \$3 billion. While the Senate passed the bill over loud opposition from firefighters and police officers, the House wouldn't go along, favoring a different bill that would move the \$3 billion pension surplus into the general fund. At the end of session, neither bill passed, and the legislature ordered both SB 5085 and the House's pension bill to be studied by the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP), a special committee that meets when the legislature is not in session. Our goal is to have the SCPP formally recommend that the legislature pass SB 5085 in 2026.

So far, the SCPP's work has gone as well as we could have hoped. Presentations by committee staff have highlighted two crucial points: First, LEOFF 1 members would not lose any benefits under SB 5085. Second, the extra money in LEOFF 1 came from the state, not from police officers and firefighters. We need to drive these points home.

**Call to action:** If you have not already done so this summer, please contact your state legislators and let them know that most TRS 1 and PERS 1 retirees did not receive a COLA in 2025 and that SB 5085 is the only workable solution to the problem. You can do this by email, letter, or calling the legislative hotline at (800) 562-6000.

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Thank you,

[Emmett Mills](#)

Legislative Coordinator

Washington State School Retirees' Association

[emmett@wssra.org](mailto:emmett@wssra.org)

Office: (360) 413-5496 ext. 2

Cell: (541) 602-4806



Maple Elementary teachers who received SEED grants during May, 2025: Front row: Chancellor Young, Chris Veltri, Micah Ventura. Back row: Erin Bell, Caitlin Curry.

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Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, our May luncheon speaker, and Thomas Gray.

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Pat Cygan holding the WSSRA Foundation Gold Award that was given to her and Ron Cygan at the WSSRA State Convention



Seattle School Retirees' Association  
P.O. Box 31027  
Wallingford Post Office  
1329 N. 47th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98103

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***SSRA Scholarship and/or S.E.E.D. Grant Fund Donation Form***

***Date*** \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift for:

**(A) SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Helps provide scholarships for post-secondary education and training for graduates of Seattle Public Schools.

OR

**(B) BURBANK RIDEOUT SEED FUND**

Seattle Education Enhancement Dividend provides mini-grants to school employees for special classroom projects.

(If a box is not checked above, your donation will be placed where the need is greatest.)

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Person or family (and address) to be notified of my gift:

**In honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

or

**In memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

My name \_\_\_\_\_ and address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to SSRA Scholarship and Grant Fund and mail to:

SSRA, P.O. Box 31027, Wallingford Post Office, 1329 N. 47th Street, Seattle, WA 98103

Donations are tax deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent allowed by the law.

Please check here \_\_\_\_ if you would like more information on including either of these funds in your estate planning.