LUNCHEON SPEAKER

March 16th Luncheon at the Elks 11:45 – 1:15

Topic:

Economic Development in Jefferson County.
County & City staff and elected will be on hand





March 10th
Chamber After
Hours Mixer
Avamere

1201 Hancock St, Port Townsend, WA 98368

5:30-7:00



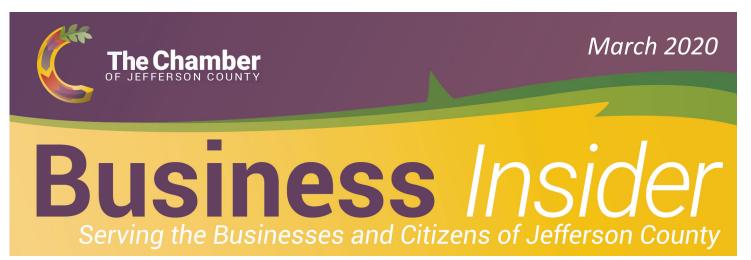
March 26th
COAD
Community
Organizations Active
In Disasters
12:00-1:00
Learn more at:

East Jefferson Fire and Rescue Uptown Port

Townsend

Sponsor

The Chamber & Emergency Management



Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary Running o' the Balls

Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary started Running of the Balls in 2010 as an annual fundraiser for the small club's youth programs, and to support Port Townsend's historic Rhododendron Festival and the annual Rhody Parade.

Inspired somewhat by Port Angeles' Duck Derby, the Sunrise Club elected to roll numbered golf balls down the long Monroe Street hill, just before the start of the annual Rhody Parade. The first balls down to a catch gate winning cash prizes, and a share of the gross proceeds going to the Rhody Festival committee in return for the use of the parade route for the Rotary game.

Running of the Balls makes its money by selling tickets to match up with the hand-numbered golf balls. Rotarians, and Rhody Court candidates, sell tickets at the Farmers Market and a few local storefronts. It has become an identifiable "event" with a cartoonish bull logo and crowd- pleasing involvement each year, grossing up to about \$8,000.

So far, Running of the Balls has been a Sunrise Rotary activity, and has about maxed out the sales ability of the small Sunrise Rotary Club.

The significant community involvement and seeing the potential as demonstrated with the Port Angeles Duck Derby has long inspired Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary to "grow" the Running of the Balls into a larger Port Townsend "event".

Imagine the value of the weeklong Rhody Festival to the business and social community, after it has been a local event since 1935, and how it needs the support and involvement of all those who not only enjoy it but benefit from it. Could it fade away for lack of local support and a steady supply of new enthusiastic volunteers?



A new wrinkle, a new source of fun and widespread involvement, could encourage new generations of locals, and visitors, to take a new interest in making sure the tradition of Rhody renews and grows.

Running of the Balls could become a growing local business magnet like the Duck Derby, if more local businesses bought into the value of supporting it by advertising it on their business premises, selling tickets, and by donating gener-

ously to the sponsored prizes like Port Angeles has done for years.

The local news media could benefit, like the PDN does in Port Angeles, by getting behind the event and publicizing it more widely and supporting the selling tickets in advance. Sunrise Rotary has just begun to tap the power of social media to gather supporters, and that should continue to grow.

Other service clubs could get involved, whether by selling tickets, getting involved in the setup and operation of the Running of the Balls event or continuing their involvement as competitors, as the Kiwanis Club did in 2019, buying \$400 worth of tickets/balls as a major competitor, resulting in their winning the \$2,000 first prize, which they then devoted to charitable purposes.

For 2020, Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary has set a goal of raising \$9,000 in ticket sales, a daunting task for a club of about 32 members, but more doable with the wider community involvement of more businesses, social clubs and individuals interested in growing the event with their involvement, in support of the Rhody Festival Committee in addition to the youth programs of the Rotary clubs.

Sunrise Rotary is excited to offer to work with other interested parties, who may contact us via: (Facebook at Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary, email at pttownsendsunriserotary@gmail.com, or PO Box 1474. If you have questions, please contact Lois Sherwood, ROB Chair for Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary.

Supplement to the February 26, 2020

Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader
226 Adams Street, Port Townsend WA 98368 ptleader.com

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marching Ahead



Arlene Alen

March is always a very busy month at the Chamber & Visitors Center and this year, especially so. We'll be holding our second annual Jefferson County Community Leadership Nominee & Sponsor Mingle.

Now in its second year this

Mix & Mingle will be held again this year at PT Vineyards. It's a great opportunity to get acquainted with fellow community leaders. Last year's event provided endless photo and video opportunities plus attendees forged life-long friendships, business relationships, and great conversation along with PT Vineyards select so many women, has built on her career by mentorwines. If you are not on the list for this invitation-only event, call us at the Chamber at 360-385-7869 or email admin@jeffcountychamber.org.

The Chamber recently announced our new partnership with long-time Chamber member, The Food Co-Op. They have agreed to cater most of our 2020 luncheons, and we are thrilled to be able to offer you fresh, locally sourced, healthy cuisine while supporting our business community. Equally as exciting, there leaders and the future of our community. will be an individual order form for "your lunch" to be customized on the website in time for our March Luncheon, Economic Development-Jefferson County & Port Townsend. Reserve your place early!

March 6th will be the Chambers 2020 inaugural live event for the Young Professionals Network to be held at the Palindrome from 5:30pm - 7:00 pm. (1893 S. Jacob Miller Rd). Your ticket includes a drink and light snacks along with a fab presentation by local storyteller Bonnie Obremski. Tickets online @ jeffcountychamber.org or at the door as available.

Women Doing Business is kicking off their first breakfast meeting which will be held at PT Vineyards tasting room with Catering by Dusty Green. Our speaker is Lori Tschohl, owner of Eagle Pipe & Mechanical. Lori's presentation, "Burgers, Baubles and more," tells the story of leadership, of engagement, of starting a career flipping burgers in high school and owning over \$10M in McDonalds Franchises and beyond. Most importantly is how this successful, now Jefferson County business owner, like ing other women in business and sharing her experiences. You'll want to book early to assure attendance.

That said, we had a fabulous Chamber After Hours at the Old Alcohol Plant in February, a warm-up and yummy tasting for the Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards coming this April. If you don't have your sponsorship and/or tickets lined up, let us help you get engaged and support our community

Correction:

Earth & Sky Healing was listed inccorectly. To reach them, please call 360-385-0797

COMMUNITY NEWS

Shore Leave for the U.S.S. Nimitz



The U.S.S. Nimitz stopped into Port Townsend for a few days this month with very little notice from the Navy bussing over 1000 sailors a day from the ship at Indian Island to the Chamber and then on a loop through Downtown and Uptown. What fun seeing all those people in the Visitors Center and our shops and restaurants enjoying three glorious sunny days! The new Port Townsend Visitors Center Plaza functioned just as the City designed and was a fabulous location for these sailors to be welcomed to our town.

The reports back to us were all positive! Wonderful family reunions were taking place at the Chamber daily with some of the sailors heading off for vacations and the airport for trips home. Many others bedded down in the area for a few days of R&R and a great time was had by all, we have heard. There was a steady stream of visitors carry shopping bags back to the ship so we are certain that they'll remember this visit. Thank you all for your hospitality, friendliness and patience with our visitors. What a mid-week boost for us all!

CHAMBER CONTACTS

STAFF

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Ashlvn Brown Membership Experience Coordinator membership@jeffcountychamber.org 360-385-7869

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Ryan E. Tippets **Communications Project Specialist** communications@jeffcountychamber.org 360-385-7869

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marine Trades Association **Brian Kuh**

EDC Team Jefferson

First Federal Bank - Port Townsend Branch

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Old Alcohol Plant, Bayside Housing

Dana Petrick

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Scott Rogers

Aldrich's Market, Dogs-A-Foot

Stephen Sklar Edward Jones Financial

Jessie Wedmore Jefferson County YMCA

Physical/Mailing Address:

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce 2409 Jefferson St., Port Townsend, WA 98368

The content of this publication is prepared by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. We welcome submissions from Chamber members. Send articles and photos to director@jeffcountychamber.org.

ACI Construction



"I love what I do, I wouldn't do anything else" shared Cameron Anderson. Cameron and his wife Lindsay are co-owners of ACI Construction, started in 2015. Although the center of operations is located on 182 Eagle Bear Road in Sequim, ACI Construction serves all of Kitsap and Jefferson County. The team consists of Cameron, who manages sales and completes the projects, Lindsay, who is administrator and bookkeeper, and depending on the project, local sub-contractors. ACI is small but mighty; they humbly and masterfully tackle projects ranging from accessory dwelling units (ADUs) projects, all sizes of pole buildings, to large-scale government projects; "we do everything but the electricity and plumbing" conceded Cameron.

Creating ACI Construction allowed Lindsay and Cameron to get back to their roots of making people's dreams happen in a real and tangible way. Both Andersons spent time in education and corporate America and although they shared that this helped with their business success, Lindsay and Cameron are thrilled to be in a world of their own creation now. In the couple's words, "we sit down with any person or business, help



figure out what they need, put the dream to paper, and make the project happen in a high quality and cost-effective way." Some highlight projects include, rebuilding Memorial Field's dugout, the San Juan Island County Fairground's Historical Barn and Central Kitsap High School's Athletic Field storage building.

Lindsay, a native of the West Coast, and Cameron, a native of Colorado, met at UW and married in 2011. The two shared a desire to help make people's dreams come true. In fact, it was because of this desire that they chose to spend their honeymoon in India doing humanitarian work. Cameron and Lindsay have two sons, Brayden and Blake; both have worked for the family business and help with periodic projects. The Andersons make a powerful team: Lindsay has a background in non-profits and Cameron construction management. After working on the east side of Puget Sound, the Andersons came to the west side to escape the city and live closer to Cameron's parents.

Another part of the Anderson's dream includes aiding Jefferson County in the housing crisis. Lindsay and Cameron see pole buildings as one of the ways to

assuage the crisis. Cameron disclosed, "Pole buildings are reliable building structures, they save resources and cost. They provide a high-quality look and craftsmanship with a smaller footprint." ACI is in the process of developing a prototype for a small house around \$75,000 that they can share with the community. "We work with people to meet their needs," said Cameron, "when we die, we want people to say that they made the world a better place." Lindsay and Cameron both volunteer for the Wooden Boat Festival and Lindsay volunteers also for Jefferson Angels, an organization that supports families who foster children.

Curious and have project ideas or questions? Reach out to ACI Construction today to learn and hear more at info@aci-nw.com or 360-207-0122.



CHAMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, March 6th @ 5:30-7:00 pm

Young Professionals Network Mingle at the Palindrome Make Pre-Paid Reservations Online: www.jeffcountychamber.org

Tuesday, March 10th@ 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Chamber After Hours Mixer @ Avamere

Monday, March 16th @ 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chamber Economic Development Jefferson County & City of Port Townsend Luncheon At the Elks on Otto, Catered by The Food Co-Op Wednesday, March 18th, Women Doing Business Inaugural Breakfast At PT Vineyards 8:00 - 9:30 am

Tuesday, March 25th, COAD-EMS
Uptown Fire Station Noon – 1:00 Informational Session
Community Organizations Active in Disasters
Emergency Management & Chamber sponsored

ACI Construction

360-207-0122

info@aci-nw.com

Jefferson County Farmers Market



As they say, February showers bring April radishes. Well, maybe that is not exactly how the saying goes. Still, it is true here in Jefferson County. The Port Townsend Farmers Market opens for its 28th season on Saturday, April 4th from 9am to 2 pm. Join the non-profit, Jefferson County Farmers Markets, which operates the three county farmers markets, in kicking off a vibrant farmers market season with our traditional red ribbon cutting, goat parade, and farmers market in uptown Port Townsend on Tyler and Lawrence Streets.

The Port Townsend Farmers Market was founded by a small group of local farmers in 1982 in the parking lot neighboring Elevated Ice Cream in downtown Port Townsend. Since 2013, the Port Townsend Farmers Market has made itself at home uptown, blooming in full color weekly April through mid-December on Tyler Street.

Our local farmers markets highlight the unique character of Jefferson County small farms, artists, and food makers with an array of products from fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables to artisan cider, wine, cheese, pastries and breads, as well as prepared foods, and hand-made arts and crafts. This season we are excited to welcome beloved returning as well as new vendors to the Port Townsend Farmers Market. New market vendors will join us with products including fresh micro greens, cottage-baked breads and pastries, pottery, candles, corn on the cob, and more.

Supporting local businesses and sustainability are focus areas for the Jefferson County Farmers Markets. Our Port Townsend and Chimacum Farmers Markets incubate about 80 local farms and small businesses each year providing marketplaces that welcome thou-

sands of local and regional shoppers weekly. All market vendors travel less than 50 miles to vend at the Port Townsend and Chimacum Farmers Markets with most vendors hailing from Jefferson County. Food and art vendors are chosen in part for their use of regionally-sourced and repurposed materials, as well as locally grown food. When you shop at your Port Townsend and Chimacum Farmers Markets you purchase directly from the growers and makers who create the products offered at the market. In this way, you support the growth of our local economy by investing your money into local businesses.

On Saturday, April 4 we will kick off the farmers market season with a red ribbon cutting in partnership with the Port Townsend and Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. Following the ribbon cutting, we will amble along the rows of the Port Townsend Farmers Market with a small heard of goats and local musicians on a parade. Goats sniff fresh produce and socialize with children and adults as they tour the market. Please join us with your favorite market hat on, your

goat from home (if you have one), a reusable bag or basket, and your shopping list. The red ribbon cutting and group photo start promptly at 9am at the intersection of Lawrence and Tyler Streets. The farmers market is open from 9am to 2pm.

See you at the market!





Jefferson County Farmers Market

Chester Courtyard, Polk St Port Townsend, WA 98368 (360) 379-9098

http://jcfmarkets.org/

Email: info@jcfmarkets.org

Shipwright Pete Stein

If you have not explored the Port of Port Townsend's Boat Haven lately, we recommend you do! There is a huge variety of maritime businesses to visit, including new entrepreneur, Pete Stein, Shipwright. "I didn't want to wait to start a business; I knew I could run a business now, especially with the collaborative nature of Boat Haven and steady business in the port. I love that traditional boat building has stayed basically the same over the past hundred years or so, and that modern tools still cannot do what hand-tools and years of experience can. I love tackling all sorts of projects and boats!" said Pete.



Pete is 1 of 7 children and a St. Louis Missouri native. After traveling and exploring the country, Pete chose to live in Port Townsend in December of 2010 to be closer to friends. Pete has always worked in general carpentry; he ran a carpentry business from his car until 2013. After 2013, Pete worked for Cunningham Ships Carpentry and the Shipwright's Coop. In fact, Pete credits his shipwright carpentry and business skills to mentor Bob Cunningham. While at the Coop, Pete spent a lot of time working on the Western Flyer and building relationships with tradespeople in the area. From 2013 to 2019 Pete enjoyed

wooden boatbuilding in the fall, winter, and spring, and working on fish crews in the summer.

Thanks to help from his brother Ben, some careful fulcrum maneuvering for the heavier machinery, Pete was able to set-up shop in the old Shipwright's Coop building, #22 in Boat Haven in October of 2019. Pete shares the building with independent, woodworking contractor Eric Fahstrom, owner of Compass Woodwork. Eric and Pete have collaborated and continue to collaborate on different projects. Project wise, Pete's work includes but is not limited to structural framing, planking and decks, housework/cabin work, interior work, and boats of all kinds including fishing boats and yachts. Commented Pete, "I love the Boat Haven atmosphere and appreciate that this yard is a 'do it yourself' yard that allows a person to hire one or many of the local contractors and companies here to do a wide range of projects, anytime of year." He continued, "I don't think I'm anything special. While I work extremely hard and quickly on every project, any woodworker down here is capable to execute any kind of boat project with extreme skill, attention to detail, and to see a project through to end."

When it comes to 2020 and beyond, Pete has a number of plans. First up, "I plan to get a forklift!" said Pete. More tools mean more high-quality projects can be accomplished! Besides that, Pete recently joined and is excited to share ideas and become more involved with the Maritime Trades Association, a local powerhouse maritime network and non-profit. One of his ideas is for boat haven partners and the wider community to come together in a spring event to celebrate our wooden boatbuilding heritage and economy. Finally, Pete shared, "I want to support other independent tradespeople in the yard, be a mentor to someone who needs it, and return the assistance I have received over the past 10 years."

Reach out to Pete Stein Shipwright at 360.302.2923, steinp314@gmail.com or visit building #22 in the Boat Haven and see the latest beautiful project he's working on!





With Our Thanks

Thank you to our March Luncheon Speaker Justine Gonzalez-Berg representing the Housing Solutions Network And our sponsors Strait Flooring and Sound Storage.

A special Thank you to the team at the **Old Alcohol Plant** for hosting a fabulous **Chamber After Hours!**

Pete Stein, Shipwright

Boat Haven bldg. #22 2601 Washington St, Port Townsend, WA 98368 360-302-2923

steinp314@gmail.com

Eagle Pipe & Mechanical, LLC

Eagle Pipe & Mechanical, LLC was started in 2014 by Lori Tschohl and her brother Michael Tschohl. Eagle Pipe & Mechanical rebranded in 2018 under the DBA Eagle Pipe Heating & Air. Lori started out as a Mcdonald's crew member, later becoming a Mcdonald's Franchisee. Lori later owned two Pandora Jewelry Stores, one in Salt Lake and one in Boise, later closing those stores to focus on Eagle Pipe Heating & Air full time.

Lori is an ambassador for the Women in HVAC organization, which provides regional outreach to educational groups and facilities interested in promoting careers in HVAC- specifically bringing women into the trades.

Michael brings with him over 40 years of experience in the industry, specializing in commercial gas pipe. Eagle Pipe Heating & Air operates under the core values of Caring, Honesty, Accountability, Mobility, Passion and Skillful- CHAMPS for short. Eagle Pipe is proudly woman owned, and is a trusted source for an array of services to help serve our customers. Service is at the heart of all we do, from Lori's years

of service with the Ronald McDonald House and the philanthropic causes the employees are involved in in their spare time.

What sets Eagle Pipe apart from the competition is the superior customer service experience we strive to provide every client we come in contact with. Starting with your first phone call to one of our experts leaving your home after a service call, installation or yearly tune up. We firmly believe in our mission and our vision - "Eagle Pipe Heating & Air will provide a superior customer service experience by soaring above challenges and providing solutions through dedication and excellence". We extend the same level of care and consideration for our biggest clients, like University of Washington, to smaller projects for homeowners and drive through coffee shops. No matter the size of your project, we take expert measure to make your vision a reality.

We service most of Western Washington, we have locations in Port Ludlow and Lynnwood. In the past most of our focus has been on the Lynnwood side, but we have seen a need for a reliable local company

around our Port Ludlow office. Our vision is to be the go to for Jefferson County for all of their heating, air, gas pipe, water heater and fireplace needs.



Eagle Piple - Heating & Air

54 7 Sisters Rd, Port Ludlow, WA 98365 (206) 765-6851

www.eaglepipemechanical.com

COUNTY UPDATE

Jefferson County Prepares For 2020 Census Count

The Decennial Census has been conducted every ten years since 1790 to gain an accurate count of those living in the United States.

Jefferson County is ramping up this year's efforts to explain why the Census is vitally



important and detail what residents need to do to participate in the April 1st count.

"The Census provides a snapshot of our community, and that snapshot is translated into many things that benefit our residents," said Census 2020/Jefferson Program Manager Jeannie McMacken. "Without the data, grant funding, planning, and representation are compromised."

Washington State received more than \$16 billion dollars through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.

*Some of these programs include medical and nutritional programs, education, the school lunch programs, housing, employment, transportation, and senior assistance" McMacken explained.

The Census also is used to draw congressional and state legislative district boundaries and determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

For those involved in family history, the census is used for genealogical research.

"For every person not counted in Jefferson County, we lose \$2,319," McMacken said. "Over ten years, that's \$23,000 of funding just for one missed response. That translates into many programs that could benefit Jefferson."

This year's Census asks ten questions about yourself and your family. It should take about ten minutes to complete. This is the first time the Census will available to complete online, in addition to a paper questionnaire and phone response.

Invitations to complete the Census will be mailed by mid-March. If no response is received

by the end of April, a Census Taker from our community will follow up personally and provide assistance.

Federal law protects census responses. No law enforcement agency, including Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, CIA or ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has access to Census responses.



Introduction to the North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council





The North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (NODC) empowers the North Olympic Peninsula to invest in and pursue its own economic and environmental destiny. As the federally-designated Economic Development District for Jefferson and Clallam Counties, NODC is s a collaborative, innovative effort among member governments, community organizations, tribes and businesses to advance economic, environmental and quality of life initiatives in the region.

NODC primarily plays a planning and facilitation role, collaborating with local governments, nonprofit organizations and businesses to improve the regional economy. It does this in several ways:

 Regional Economic Development Planning – NODC produces Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every 5 years with annual updates in between (https://www.noprcd.org/Clallam-and-Jefferson-Counties-Comprehensive-Economic-Development-Strategy).



112 Castellano Way Port Townsend, WA 360-344-3114 CaringPlaces.com Providing life enrichment in a secure environment for those with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of memory loss.

- Support economic development in key sectors identified in the CEDS farm & food, forestry, marine trades, tourism.
- Act as convener on regional issues broadband, climate change planning, workforce development.
- **Implement projects** that fill gaps, taking the lead on project development and coordination as needed.

For instance, in 2015 NODC led development of the 2015 Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula (https://www.noprcd.org/climatechange-report), funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology and Commerce. The project aimed to reduce the risks due to climate change through the detailed assessment of climate related vulnerabilities and the creation of a Climate Preparedness Plan. The plan was intended to inform the comprehensive and strategic planning processes of the cities, counties, tribes, Public Utility Districts, and ports within the North Olympic Peninsula. The plan includes a compilation of detailed local observations and projections of climate change using best available science, prioritization of highly sensitive or vulnerable resources and locations and a prioritized set of adaptation strategies and actions based on both the science and the knowledge of local stakeholders.

In 2016, NODC received a grant from USDA to purchase kitchen equipment to lease to Finnriver Cidery to develop a commercial kitchen to be used by Finnriver, the Chimacum Corner Farmstand and other local food businesses. The facility opened in 2018. In 2016-17, NODC used a USDA Farm to School grant to assist the Port Townsend School District in moving to a menu using more healthy, whole, local foods.

More recently, in March 2019 NODC coordinated

a two-day regional broadband symposium that led to the formation of Broadband Action Teams in Jefferson County, Sequim, Port Angeles and Clallam County. A follow-up conference is tentatively planned for 2020.

NODC also received a technical assistance award to begin planning and analysis around sustainable forestry and wood products and that work will be taking place this year. In addition, we will be working with partners WSU Cooperative Extension and The Local Food Trust to identify the needs of local food producers and regional wholesale buyers in order to help support expansion of local food systems.

NODC is a small organization, working primarily behind the scenes, collaborating with local governments and other partners to create a thriving, sustainable economy across the region. Our monthly meetings are open to the public and include presentations on topics relevant to economic development in the region. For information, follow NOPRCD on Facebook or check out our web site at https://www.noprcd.org. Executive Director Karen Affeld can be reached at karen@noprcd.org.

North Olympic Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council

P.O. Box 2526, Port Angeles, WA 98362

(360) 477-1593 • e-mail: info@noprcd.org

www.noprcd.org • www.facebook.com/NOPRCD

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce 2409 Jefferson Street Port Townsend, WA 98368

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CHAMBER AFTER HOURS

March 10th @ 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Avamere

1201 Hancock St, Port Townsend



Nonprofit partner for this event: **Jefferson Healthcare Foundation**

Happy 2020! Join the staff at Avamere for a Fun Twist Healthcare, all attendees are invited to a Scavenger Hunt with Shots that don't hurt and medications that melt on your tongue all the while earning a chance at a very special Raffle Prize!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Irene Rubin

When asked what value volunteering at the Port **Townsend Visitor Center brings** to her, Irene Rubin exclaimed, "I feel empowered! I feel like I do know this town and can come up with ideas and things



to do when friends and family visit or when someone walks through the Visitor Center door! I feel helpful, important, and it's enjoyable!" Continued Irene, "Did you know our area has a vibrant quilting scene? Or that Old Alcohol Plant has rotating, engaging art gallery? Ask me questions about these areas and more!"

Irene has always found joy in exploring, learning, and art, ever since she was a little girl growing up in the suburbs of New York. Irene graduated from New York University where she majored in Art with a focus on painting. Before she got settled as a studio artist, Irene decided to travel the United States and see more of the country. She particularly enjoyed living in Arizona and Eugene, Oregon, where she made and sold jewelry. Irene married Frank Rubin in '85 and they brought their family to San Francisco. Irene and Frank raised two boys, Frankie and Nick. Irene got her masters in Recreation Therapy from San Francisco State and worked with hospitalized children and later as a special education assistant working with students with autism.

Irene and Frank came to Port Townsend in 2017 after one of Frank's cousins recommended the area. Port Townsend life for Irene includes volunteering at KPTZ events, walking everyday at favorite haunts like Fort Worden and the Larry Scott Trail, and volunteering at the VIC. Irene shared, "Volunteering at the VIC caused me to pay more attention to the community and the roads and layout of the area- I want to be able to help visitors and friends find their way. Volunteering here kind of forces you in a gentle, kind way to learn about the community faster than you would on your own- I've loved that! This Visitor Center is important for visitors because we hear, almost on a daily basis, that visitors and locals alike prefer in-person recommendations, even with smartphones. It is a great place to meet people, make connections, and learn something new about the town, whether you are passing through or have been here 20 years."

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Chamber and our Community

President's Circle



Extreme Visionary







































1ST SECURITY BANK





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