



June 2016

# Fund Facts

## What Happens at the Barn?

BY JANE SHINER

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, volunteers receive items from clean-outs, drop-offs and pickups. These items are unpacked, sorted, washed (if necessary) and taken by cart to designated areas of the barn where they are priced, wrapped, boxed and clearly marked with Patio Sale locations and moved to the storage area for the July Patio Sale or December's Santa's Shop at the Barn. Some are put on display in the Barn for immediate sale. Kitchen items are cleaned, priced and wrapped in the receiving area as time permits.

Several groups of volunteers come to the Barn to work in the afternoons when the Barn is closed to the public. These volunteers price, wrap and box items for TOPS (toys, office supplies, puzzles), fabrics and plastics, silverware, knives, all occasion cards, holiday cards, cameras, binoculars, tripods and clothes hangers. Fine linens are also processed by these volunteers. Depending on their value and projected sale value, some vases are taken to the décor or collectibles areas.

SEE FINDS, 3



Photo by Carol Degler.

*Pictured: Phyllis Hinz, BJ Matthews, Sarah Wright, Edrie Harrington, Bev Hilts, Marian Raitz, MaryAnn Ratliff, Lin Shroeder, Sandy Wilson, Diane Stiles, John Rutherford, Deb Creveling, Betty McKenzie, Maureen Farr, Dean Morgan, Dottie Maynard, Bob Degler, Barb Williams, Jo Love Beach. Hidden or missing: Frank Bates, Jeanne Burlison, Roxanne Cobb, Frank Feikema, Rusty Fischer, Jerry Hathaway, Carolyn Hendricks, Colleen Janney, Dave Morris, Jan Norris, Avriel Rideau, Shirley Sawdon, Bill Schacht, Jane Shiner, Carol Thomas, Carol Zerbato.*



Photos by Suzanne Dahlman

*Pictured left to right: Ruby Adams, Jerry Hathaway, Marlys Baker, Carol Thomas, Sharon McGinley, Fern Larsen, Colleen Janney, Rita Watson, Nita Preuitt, Bill Schacht, Jeanne Burlison. Missing: Jeanette Cain, Harriett Clingman, Mavis Johnson, Bud Konopaski, Dean Morgan, Dave Morris, Claudia Page, Lucy Reuter, Avriel Rideau, Ruth Ross, Isolde Schreiner.*

# PATIO SALE HISTORY

BY JO LOVE BEACH

Exciting! Far reaching!  
Innovative!

These words just start to describe the history of the Benevolent Fund Patio Sale. Exciting and innovative because it brings Panorama residents many new ideas. Far reaching because the Patio Sale and the development of the City of Lacey have been closely tied together with benefits for the larger community as well as enhancing cooperative relationships with the Panorama Corporation.

In 1972 a small thrift store, The Triple-T store, (Trinkets, Treasures and Trash) run by Panorama volunteers was located at the west end of the Lacey Village Shopping Center. It closed because the property, which was owned by the Panorama Corporation, was sold. The leftover merchandise became part of a new idea—a Panorama Patio Sale. The first Patio Sale was held on a shuffleboard court across from the main entrance to the Chalet in 1970. Their revenue? \$728.75.

A tribute to the many volunteers, Panorama residents as well as enthusiastic off-campus volunteers, is in order. Their efforts and skills have brought the Barn and Furniture Warehouse to what we know today. A grateful “Thank You” to each one for establishing a great tradition! ♦

# Patio Sale Sustainability

BY DALE VINCENT

Two years ago, a Benevolent Fund Patio Sale Sustainability Task Force was formed to study the sale. Their report recognizes the enormous success and growth of the sale over the past 15 years under Diane Stiles’ leadership. What was once a small event became a huge, vibrant, and fun celebration. Over 500 volunteers now make the two-day sale possible. The task force found that the management structure all reported to one individual manager whose leadership and tireless hours of full time work made success possible.

The Benevolent Fund Patio Sale should not be taken for granted. At Panorama, we have examples of other successful, long standing events passing by the way side when the single leader was no longer available. Panorama had a successful flower show for more than 40 consecutive years. We had a DART organization that was well prepared and enjoyed similar strong leadership. Both of these events and organizations no longer exist because the single leader was no longer available.

The Benevolent Fund has wondered for some years how it would be possible to find a leader to replace Diane as Benevolent Fund Patio Sale manager. The obvious conclusion is that it is unlikely that any single individual capable of providing such leadership would be willing to work full time as a volunteer manager. We have to conclude, to her credit, that Diane is irreplaceable.

Therefore, we are re-structuring the sale and its leadership. The various work functions of the Sale, Barn, Pick Up and Clean Out crews, Warehouse, etc. have been divided into separate units, and each unit is to have its own leadership. We plan for those volunteers who work in each group to select their own leaders and for each to select two co-leaders per work group. These work group leaders will each become part of an overall sale coordinating council. And the overall sale coordinating council will also select from its members two leaders.

These two co-leaders of the coordinating council will then lead the total Benevolent Fund Patio Sale. The term of office for each of these leaders will be initially established as two years. The work group may decide that the two leaders will be chief and deputy, or they may be equal co-leaders. At the end of each sale, the leadership will rotate and a new leader will be added from the work group. One leader will retire as leader of the group each year so that no one will feel that they have become a “volunteer for life”. The leaders of the overall coordinating council will report to the Benevolent Fund Board of Trustees and will meet with the board every month at the regular board meetings.

Additionally and to improve the Board’s involvement with the sale, each member of

the Board of Trustees will be appointed as a liaison to one of the sale work groups. This board member is there to facilitate the flow of communication between board and work group and vice versa. The board member is not a supervisor or leader of the work group.



## PATIO SALE SUSTAINABILITY

The coordinating council will make the decisions for the sale as Diane does now. Communication between the work groups, which is of course essential, will be facilitated by the coordinating council. In other words, the single individual sale manager is replaced by the coordinating council whose membership changes every year. This new structure allows Diane and Jo Love to retire on August 2nd although they may want to continue to work as volunteers in the sale.

A “can do spirit” will be required to put this new structure in place. It allows for the opportunity for new leadership to develop and to encourage innovation throughout the sale. To the greatest extent possible, important decisions will be made by the volunteers in each work group. They will select their own leaders on a regular basis.

Sale work groups should select their new leaders as soon as possible so that they are in place before the July 2016 sale. Diane will continue to be the manager through this year’s sale. The new leadership structure and new leaders should take over on August 2, 2016. The new leaders and the new structure will then have a full year to prepare for the 2017 sale.

There will be many questions that we will all have to work through. Hopefully this “can do spirit” and sense of good will can make it all possible. Mistakes will be made and new lessons will be learned. This should be an exciting experience for all. As long as we keep our eye on the objective, to provide financial assistance for all independent living residents of Panorama should the need arise, and to make Panorama a better, safer and more secure place for all of us, then we should enjoy good success. ♦



## THANK YOU!

Diane Stiles & Jo Love Beach after 15 years of Patio Sale service will be honored for their leadership, volunteerism, and enormous success as Benevolent Fund Patio Sale Managers on August 2nd at the patio sale volunteers recognition luncheon.

## DID YOU KNOW?

80% of proceeds for a car, truck, or RV sold is returned to the Benevolent Fund.

Call 855-500-7433 to arrange for pick up and to receive documents for a tax deduction. It's easy and trouble free.



## DID YOU KNOW?

When you start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select the Panorama Benevolent Fund, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the Benevolent Fund. Your shopping experience will be the same but AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Benevolent Fund every time you shop and at no cost to you. Why not?



## DID YOU KNOW?

By linking your Fred Meyer rewards card to the Benevolent Fund, we earn donations—over and above your own rewards, points and rebates! Please sign up at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).



## Panorama Benevolent Fund

1751 Circle Lane SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

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## Thanks to our donors!

The following residents donated to the work of the Benevolent Fund this quarter. The donations were in the form of memorials, gifts of appreciation, cash donations, or bequests. The Benevolent Fund, a not-for-profit organization operated for and by residents, 1) provides financial assistance and support to residents in need, 2) provides services and funding for quality-of-life projects for the benefit of all residents, and 3) helps provide a smooth transition through the phases of aging.

Lee Anderson	Betty Hutt	<b>Honor Donations</b>
Shirley Atwater	Morgan & Mary Jo Lavin	Linda Baumgarten in honor of Cindy Fairbrook
Bob & Ruth Brigden	Mary Mann	
Betty Curneen	Bill & Marie Palmer	Mark Cooper in honor of Diane Stiles and Jo Love Beach
Virginia Dunn	Libby Penney	
Paul & Mary Anne Enns	Janet Sears	Gail Madden in honor of Elaine Rost
Gary & Isabel Ernest	Harry & Carol Thomas	
Jay Felzien	Jack & Dorothy Van Leuven	Don & Rosalie Melnick in honor of the Art Group
Phyllis Freitas		

**Office:** Quinault Lower Level. Monday – Friday, 7–11:30 a.m. (360) 438-7556. PBF-Secretary@Panorama.org, **Staff:** Secretary, Connie Cameron. **Social Services:** Adele Hadley, Corrine Wasmundt, Sara Wasser. **Board of Trustees:** President, Dale Vincent. Vice-President, Dave Bartruff. Treasurers, Gloria Siciliano, April Works. Secretary, Ruth Shearer. Members: Ruth Brigden, Betty Bettencourt Dodds, Suzanne Dahlman, Mary Anne Enns, Jay Felzien, Judy Konopaski, Mary Jo Lavin, Nancy Luck, Anita Turcotte, Norman Wohlken. **Appointees:** Kristine Bartruff, Social Assistance; Linda Crabtree, Fund Facts editor; Diane Stiles, Patio Sale; Georgia Vincent, Social Assistance.

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## FINDS AT THE BARN AND WAREHOUSE

The sales areas of the Barn are Art Supplies and Pictures, Décor, Fabrics and Linens (including aprons, décor items, wool hats, gloves, and bathroom décor items), Collectibles (fine crystal, china and silver items,), Tools (including garden supplies, sporting goods and camping equipment), Electrical items, TOPS (toys, office supplies, puzzles), Hobbies and Plastics. There is also an area for pet supplies, waste baskets and cloth bags. A miscellaneous table holds seasonal treasures.

Lamps, television sets, furniture (except for beds) and books are delivered to the warehouse on 14th Street. There these items are sorted and priced. Books are placed on shelves for sale or boxed for the July sale. Residents are encouraged to visit the warehouse often using Resident Transit to get to and from this site as parking is very limited. Items are numerous and varied – so come and explore.

If you are interested in any one of the specialty areas, or like to meet and work with people, or want to be a part of the mysterious and wonderful chemistry that is part of the retail sales function, think about joining us for a few hours each week. Contact Diane Stiles at 5406. ♦



*One of many teams, the Book Crew: Joe Huddy, Wendy Taylor, Marti Rutishauser, Marsha Majors, Anne Allen. Missing: Karen Romanelli.*

*Photos by Suzanne Dahlman.*



*Warehouse Crew left to right: Don Fenn, Bob Rhoades, Gary Bloomfield, Dave Good, John Clark, Ken Hooper. Missing: Larry Fischer.*

## The Leftovers

BY SUZANNE DAHLMAN

Some vases are sold to a local florist shop while others are donated to community groups. There are items that are donated to other community agencies. The list of organizations and items changes according to need and their ability to store or use the donation. For example, clothing and miscellaneous items are donated to ARC, small telephones that only dial 911 and unopened toiletries are given to Safeplace.

The Olympia Union Gospel Mission takes household cleaning supplies, paper products, and canned goods. The Mission also gets heavy jackets and heavy outer clothing which they give to those in need. The Lions Club takes glasses and hearing aids as a part of their service to the community. Magnets and key chains are saved to be given out at the July Patio Sale at our Information Booth. ♦

## Sales Tax

This year the Benevolent Fund began to collect sales tax and installed new cash registers which compute the tax providing a required legal record of the sales each day. Additional volunteers have received training on the machines and are doing a great job with them. ♦

**PATIO  
SALE**

## PANORAMA BENEVOLENT FUND

1751 Circle Lane SE, Lacey, WA 98503  
360.438.7556 501(c)(3) Established 1972

# TRUSTEES & APPOINTEES

April 2016

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE/COMMITTEE</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>TERM</u>
<b>Officers</b>				
Dale Vincent	President	<a href="mailto:dallenvincent@gmail.com">dallenvincent@gmail.com</a>	5561	01/2018
Dave Bartruff	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:davidbartruff@comcast.net">davidbartruff@comcast.net</a>	5992	01/2019
Gloria Siciliano	Co-Treasurer	<a href="mailto:gscats@live.com">gscats@live.com</a>	5222	
Ruth Shearer	Secretary	<a href="mailto:shearj@aol.com">shearj@aol.com</a>	5682	01/2018
April Works	Co-Treasurer	<a href="mailto:aprilworks@gmail.com">aprilworks@gmail.com</a>	5496	
<b>Trustees:</b>				
Ruth Brigden	Finance Committee	<a href="mailto:rbrigden@gmail.com">rbrigden@gmail.com</a>	5786	01/2018
Betty Bettencourt Dodds	Membership	<a href="mailto:2betty@havanet.com">2betty@havanet.com</a>	5722	01/2018
Suzanne Dahlman	Finance Committee	<a href="mailto:wyoque@comcast.net">wyoque@comcast.net</a>	5221	01/2018
Mary Anne Enns	SocAsst/Membership	<a href="mailto:2enns@comcast.net">2enns@comcast.net</a>	5505	01/2018
Jay Felzien	Social Assistance	<a href="mailto:thetsrguys@yahoo.com">thetsrguys@yahoo.com</a>	5473	01/2017
Judy Konopaski	Social Assistance	<a href="mailto:budjude@msn.com">budjude@msn.com</a>	5209	01/2018
Mary Jo Lavin	Recognition/Memorials	<a href="mailto:maryjolavin.1@gmail.com">maryjolavin.1@gmail.com</a>	5627	01/2017
Nancy Luck		<a href="mailto:nnnlll@comcast.net">nnnlll@comcast.net</a>	5771	01/2019
Anita Turcotte		<a href="mailto:turcotte369@comcast.net">turcotte369@comcast.net</a>	5959	
Norman Wohlken	Finance Committee	<a href="mailto:njwohlken@gmail.com">njwohlken@gmail.com</a>	5500	01/2019
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[pbf-secretary@panorama.org](mailto:pbf-secretary@panorama.org)



The Panorama Benevolent Fund has a few special job openings.

We need a new co-treasurer who is our bookkeeper, writes checks for financial assistance to residents, pays the bills, and works closely with our auditing firm on tax preparation and audits.

We are also looking for one or two assistants to help with the sale of special books on-line at Amazon.

It is also time to consider the fall elections for trustees for the Benevolent Fund Board of Trustees. Members of the board are elected by Panorama independent living residents. Please consider running for a position on the Benevolent Fund board of Trustees.

Call the Benevolent Fund office at 7556 if you are interested. ◆



# QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS

## Panorama Benevolent Fund

BY DAVE BARTRUFF

Doing income taxes this year for the AARP TaxAide program, I had the opportunity to talk to Panorama residents who were dealing for the first time with having to begin making withdrawals from their IRA accounts due to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) laws that kick in at age 70½. Many were shocked by the amount of additional income taxes that had to be paid on these distributions and some wondered what they could do to minimize the additional income taxes.

Sadly, the RMD laws can't be avoided. They are the last phase of the "pay me now or pay me later" choice that was given to everyone back in the 70's when traditional IRA's were created with the promise of being able to avoid income tax on contributions and their growth until they were withdrawn.

Under current IRS rules, when you receive the cash distribution of your RMD from your IRA trustee, the amount received is taxed as normal income. If your marginal tax rate is 25% (single taxpayers with Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) between \$37,450-\$90,750 and married taxpayers with MAGI between \$74,900-\$151,200), for every \$1,000

that is received in cash you will owe an additional \$250 in income tax. And, to possibly make your tax bill even worse, it could happen that receiving the RMD payment would increase your MAGI to the point that more of your Social Security would become taxable and you might be billed more for you Medicare Part B as well.

However, for retirees who are already making charitable contributions to their church or other tax-exempt organizations (like the Benevolent Fund), or who may be considering starting such contributions when they start receiving the additional cash from the RMD,

there is a technique that can be used to avoid taxes on your distributions.

**Here is how to avoid taxes on your distributions:**

By directing your IRA trustee to send charitable gifts directly from your IRA to a charity, you would not have to pay any income tax on the gift (you never received the money yourself). You also would avoid any possibility of impacting your Social Security and Medicare taxing thresholds. However, if you are still itemizing deductions on your tax return, gifts made directly from IRAs cannot be included as deductible charitable deductions.

Philanthropically minded taxpayers aged 70 ½ or older who have IRA assets not needed to support their lifestyle may benefit from a charitable distribution of IRA assets.

Using this technique to avoid taxes on your IRA withdrawals is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Although federal tax code has allowed this for several years, it was permanently written into the tax code at the end of 2015. It is one way to get a bigger “bang for your buck” when you donate to charities and should be considered by anyone starting to receive their RMD for the first time at age 70½ as well as anyone who can shift their current charitable giving from after-tax dollars to a QCD from their IRA. For example, instead of writing a \$100 check each month to your church, direct instead that \$1,200 be taken from your IRA via the QCD in annual, quarterly or monthly payments.

Qualified Charitable Distributions count toward your IRA annual RMD requirement. The IRA trustees will send you confirmation of the gift disbursement and the charity will also send confirmation of its receipt. The IRA trustee will issue a Form 1099-R which shows your entire RMD amount for your use when completing your annual income tax return. The confirmation letters will document the portion of your RMD that is exempt from income tax. A QCD can be for any amount up to \$100,000 per person and can be made at multiple times during the year as well as to multiple charities.

**Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution is easy to do:**

1. Write a letter of instruction to the IRA trustee that identifies the amount you want to send to the charity along with the name and address of the charity. Many IRA trustees have a Redemption Form that can be used for this purpose.
2. Take the instruction to your bank and have them provide a Medallion Signature Guarantee. The banks will also require you to bring a statement from your IRA that shows

ownership and the latest balance (the local bank branches at Panorama Pan Hall do not provide this service).

3. Mail or deliver the instructions, along with an IRS Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number or Certification, to your IRA trustee.

**Some important points to review:**

- IRA distributions must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee to the eligible charity.
- QCD allows you to make charitable contributions that will reduce your Income Tax liability even if you are not able to itemize deductions via Schedule A. In most cases you are better off tax-wise giving charitable contributions using the QCD rather than itemizing.
- QCD may reduce the income taxes you pay on Social Security benefits.
- QCD may reduce the Medicare insurance premiums.
- Includes retirement plans under 401(a), 403(a), 403(b) and (457) that follow IRA rules.

The information provided above is intended to be general and educational in nature and should NOT be construed as a substitute for legal or tax advice. The Panorama Benevolent Fund (PBF) believes that you should approach charitable donations by considering income tax implications as well as estate and gift tax planning goals and objectives. Furthermore, the PBF recommends you consult a professional tax advisor for specific guidance on your personal situation. ✦

