

# The Chinook Reader

A newsletter for the Friends of Chinook School

*A Community Restoring for the Future*

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Fall Edition

Volume Nine

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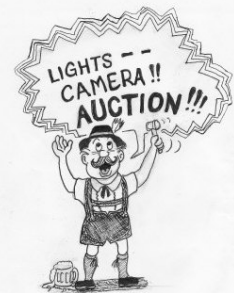
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## CURTAIN UP ON ACT II

### Back to the Play - Oktoberfest Dinner Auction Action

Intermission is over following a wonderful Act I at the Chinook School Gymnasium. Intermission was awash in activities readying the gym for Act II.

“Set” builders completed beautiful interior spaces and purchased functional “props” to keep the action rolling. Directors have planned, organized and rehearsed for the big night and beyond. We are eager to see you all. Curtain Call, five o’clock.



### Rehearsal:

FOCS has been rehearsing for Act II and beyond trying out the new spaces and functional props for receptions and family reunions. Each event was a real success and helped us be wonderfully ready to present Act II, Oktoberfest 2011 “Chinook Style”. Let the play continue!



Stage Decorations -Oktoberfest 2010



Welcoming Friends -2010

## Act II: Scene 1

Once again, Friends of Chinook School devotees are preparing for a magnificent evening of fun and fellowship. Scene 1 offers another outstanding dinner prepared by Joanne Leech of the Sanctuary Restaurant. Dinner will be served from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m.

## Act II: Scene 2

The silent auction will begin as soon as the doors open at 5:00 p.m. Silent bids continue throughout dinner, music and frolicking until 8:00 p.m. There will be incremental alerts as the silent bidding is about to end so bidders can try one more time to secure that special item they are wanting. As the gavel sounds to begin the live auction, you are invited to pull up a chair and be part of the action. Live auction begins at 8:15 p.m.

## Act II: Scene 3

The Beach Buddies Band will appear on stage throughout the evening providing upbeat ambiance with a variety of terrific tunes. Folks have been known to “cut a mean rug” or sing right out as they enjoy activities of the evening. Scene 3 is the perfect addition to our play.

## Act II: Scene 4

Live auction begins at approximately 8:15. This part of the evening is distinguished by many of the most unique, higher-end, entertainment or travel packages and gourmet offerings. In past years

there have been special works of art, gorgeous quilts, unique furnishings and some real surprises. And, even better than all these goodies is the fun of the live bidding event - an event too good to miss. Come early, stay late. Enjoy!

## Epilogue:

As the curtain closes on Act II, the wonderful renovated Chinook School Gym is ready for action. With several successful events already in the book, cast and crew are ready for full community participation. Following Oktoberfest we are anticipating many more special events including holiday celebrations. The application process and forms are ready with Kimberly Smith directing the action. She may be reached at 360-783-2500 or by email at [friendsofchinook-gym@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofchinook-gym@gmail.com). A calendar of scheduled events will be consistently updated online at [www.friendsofchinookschool.org](http://www.friendsofchinookschool.org). This includes those regularly scheduled events such as youth open gym sponsored by FOCS.

**A PROJECT IS COMPLETE  
WHEN IT STARTS WORK-  
ING FOR YOU, RATHER  
THAN YOU WORKING  
FOR IT.**

**-SCOTT ALLEN**

## Spotlight on...

Elsie M. Anderson is joining the Centenarian Chinookian club. She celebrates her 100th birthday on September 6, 2011. Born to Charles and Elena (Petit) Mechals at home in Chinook, Washington on September 6, 1911, Elsie lived much of her life in this lumber and fishing town. She grew up with five brothers and one sister.

As can be said of so many early Chinook residents, Joseph, Earl (Bud), Charles, James, Donald, Lois and Elsie lived lives full out. All the boys loved and participated in sports so basketball and running came naturally to Elsie. In fact she had a friend, Frankie Plumb, noted in Chinook as a very fast runner. Frankie would ask Elsie to be his running partner because she could run so fast.

The Mechals brothers had their own basketball team traveling around the area with a reputation for being an excellent team. Elsie came to love all sports welcoming the opportunity to watch, read about or listen to basketball, baseball, football, tennis and golf. Even the Iditarod Great Sled Race caught Elsie's interest. She remained active herself often walking five miles a day in the early mornings and sometimes another five miles in the evening. It wasn't that Elsie rested between five-mile jaunts. She was an industrious woman always.

To wit: Elsie married Albin Anderson in Tacoma, Washington on October 5, 1928. Albin made this a successful commercial fishing family first moving to Tokeland where Albin Jr. was born July 12, 1930, thence to Westport, Washington where they welcomed Barbara Jean on our nation's birthday, July 4, 1934. That must have been an extra special day for Albin as he had been born in the Aland Islands between Sweden and Finland and became a naturalized citizen of the USA in 1935. They chose to move the family to Eureka, California in 1948 to continue commercial fishing. Supporting the family, Elsie canned everything. Her pantry was bountiful and beautiful with jars of vegetables, fruits, pickles, jams and jellies, meats and all kinds of fish. Her garden was legendary and she was a great cook. Albin could arrive home unexpectedly with any number of guests (oops, no cell phones!) and Elsie would graciously and bountifully entertain them.

Elsie and Albin made a wonderful life together for 66 years, imparting wisdom and guidance to their offspring. Soon after Albin's 1994 passing, Elsie moved to Everett, Washington to be close to her daughter and to hear stories of Chinook read to her from the Observer and the Chinook Reader. Many happy returns, Elsie. Wish you were here!




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Elsie & Albin (right) on their wedding day. Elsie (far right) at 15 years of age.

A Community Restoring for the Future

[www.friendsofchinookschool.org](http://www.friendsofchinookschool.org)

We're now online at:

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chinook, WA 98614

P.O. Box 243

Friends of Chinook School

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## Reminders

**Plan to attend Oktoberfest** - the food is great, but the band is swinging and the bar is open. COME JOIN THE FUN - **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd**. Here's a small sample of the bidding items!

- ***"Stock up your wine cellar"*** Bring a bottle of wine to the Oktoberfest to donate to the auction! The entire collection will be presented for bid in the live auction and the lucky bidder will take home a great collection of wine just in time for holiday parties!
- ***March Spring Training Getaway!!*** Three nights B&B for two including a game day of your choice with the Mariners during Spring Training! Be the lucky bidder for a dream trip to the desert!
- ***Four Seattle Seahawk vs. Baltimore Ravens football tickets*** for November 13th plus enjoy two nights stay in a 3 bedroom 3 bath townhouse at beautiful **Alki Beach in West Seattle!** Ask your friends and come prepared to bid on this fun vacation package.

Become a proud member of Friends of Chinook School. Annual memberships are only \$10.00 for an individual, couple or the whole family.

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new board members! Join us in welcoming Kimberly Smith and Karen Leu to the FOCS Board of Directors!

## Oktoberfest is Coming - We Need Your Donations!

### **Deadline for auction donations is October 9th.**

The big event of the year is about six weeks from the date you are receiving this newsletter. As in the past, we are asking for high quality donations for our silent or live auction. This year we are putting together a descriptive catalog of items. In order for your donation to be included with a detailed description, we must have the item(s) no later than October 9th.

If your items are donated later than the deadline, we will make every effort to include them in the auction but we cannot guarantee they will be printed in the catalog. Your cooperation with meeting the deadline is greatly appreciated. We welcome any new donors and if you have donated items in the past we hope we can count on you to help make our fundraiser a huge success again this year.

Please call Karen Leu at 360-642-8108 or her cell 206-713-6981 if you have any questions or items to donate.

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*As FOCS board members plan and prepare for our special Oktoberfest food, we could hardly help thinking of former school cook, Ernie Litschke and we hope she is as thrilled with the shiny new kitchen space as we are.*

*Ernestine (Belknap) Litschke, will be 94 years old in November. Ernie has lived for many years right across the street from Chinook School where she worked as a cook in the kitchen. She has fond memories of feeding the school children. All four of her own children attended Chinook School and her husband, Bill Litschke, tended the grounds, drove the bus and swept the halls. FOCS board member Tammy Engel is Ernie's granddaughter-in-law.*

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### Memorials—

Once again we are honored to receive donations in memory of special loved ones. Listed below are the most recent additions.

**Lottie Z. Gillespie**  
**Morrison F. Gillespie**  
**Dr. Gwen Newton**  
**Dorothy McNamara**  
**Lora Fay Johnson**  
**Walter L. Hansen**  
**Laurence Prest**  
**Jane (Robertson) Cease**

We are grateful for the opportunity to apply these honor funds to our Chinook School rehabilitation project. As mentioned before, we have plans to place a memorial plaque in the school building when the restoration has been completed. This plaque will serve to remind all of us of departed family and friends and the generosity of those who contributed in their memory. The complete list can be viewed on our website:  
[www.friendsofchinookschool.org](http://www.friendsofchinookschool.org)

## Behind the Scenes

Each newsletter seeks to keep renovation project facts current for our readers. Behind the Scenes is a column reporting project news from your FOCS Board. Three wonderful words characterize this edition's Board news: **Occupancy Permit Granted!** Many years into the Chinook School and Gymnasium restoration project, these three words are music to the ears of all those committed to the successful completion of Phase 1, the renovation and readiness of the beautiful new gym space.

Thanks to grants, funds raised by Friends of Chinook School, community contributions, in-kind contributions and myriad volunteer efforts, the historic Chinook gymnasium is open and ready for events and activities of many descriptions.

Since Oktoberfest 2010, completed work includes: new septic system, beautiful main floor restrooms, excellent stage-area dressing room with carpet and special lighting, interior painting/doors/woodwork, ADA exterior ramp railings, kitchen interiors/appliances/equipment, and general use furnishings and equipment.

There are still things to work on but the gymnasium is essentially complete, comfortable and available for multiple uses. With remaining funds and anticipated in-kind contributions, the next work will include building insulation, exterior painting and refurbishing the wonderful hardwood floors. This terrific facility is the pride of all who have supported the project, the community at large and generations to come.

## Friends of Chinook School and Port of Chinook

The unique relationship between FOCS and POC has led to the success of this restoration project. The Port of Chinook owns the Chinook School property and FOCS leases the property and is responsible for planning, fund raising, improving the property, maintaining buildings and grounds and program management. These two entities have worked successfully together in seeking funding for this enormous project (remember, the school building is next!) This collaboration has involved many dedicated people. At a dedication ceremony in early 2012, FOCS and POC will recognize all who have contributed directly to the project.

## Gymnasium Use and Rental Policy

Use of the Chinook School gymnasium and its adjoining play fields is directed by Friends of Chinook School Board. A FOCS Facility Rental Committee is in place to process the use applications. FOCS will be sponsoring continuing community programs and activities. In addition to the many on-going uses, the gymnasium is available for rent for a variety of community activities and private use. Please check out our website, [www.friendsofchinookschool.org](http://www.friendsofchinookschool.org) for information and calendars.