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## The Island is changing because its people ask it to change

Growing up on Bainbridge Island was, for me, a special thing. Although I must admit, I never really thought about it much until I married and had a family of my own. My husband and I wanted that same feeling of community we had experienced for our two children.



*Penny Lamping (L) and her sister, Becky, on Crystal Springs Drive, 1961.*

I remember as a kid we had to go to Seattle for pretty much everything.

The Seattle Times did a story on my family – about how my father would pick up things for the family on his daily commute to Seattle and for anyone else in the neighborhood. We went to Seattle to go to the dentist – then people wanted pediatric dentists on the Island so they came and we were able to get that care closer to home. We went to Seattle for a better selection of shoes for the family – then people wanted shoe stores so they came.

Most of the changes we have seen on Bainbridge Island over the years are because we in the community asked for them. And in looking at old issues of the Bainbridge Review from the 1960s, many have articles about “No more growth!”

But, I think we can all agree – the island has done nothing but change.

Yet even as the physical appearance of Bainbridge has changed, there is still the strong feeling of community. When I walk into Esther’s and they ask me how my latest sewing project is coming along; when I go to Eagle Harbor Books and the staff make a recommendation based on a previous purchase; when my husband and I head to Ace Hardware for a particular size screw or when the mechanic at the garage knows just what I’m talking

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### FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Phedra Elliott*

Dear Neighbors,

As we look ahead to warmer and longer days, I am excited to share some of the work that keeps us busy at Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB). Each and every day our amazing staff works with our tenants, our homeowners, and the dozens of families who reach out to us in search of housing assistance. Our mission in the community is to preserve the diversity and vitality of Bainbridge Island by providing and maintaining affordable housing opportunities.

One of our values at HRB is to be courageous in our actions in order to meet the challenges that face our community. At our Annual Breakfast last year, we heard from Steven Falk, the former City Manager of Lafayette, California, who shared his personal story of advocating for housing in the Bay Area. Steven challenged us by noting that “all cities – even small ones – have a responsibility to address the most significant challenges of our time: climate change, income inequality, and housing affordability.” We couldn’t agree more.

To that end, I hope you enjoy the personal reflection from our Communications & Fundraising Manager, Penny Lamping. In her

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### HRB STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

#### HRB STAFF

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- Marta Holt**  
*Property Manager*
- Anthony Oddo**  
*Policy and Programs Coordinator*
- Julie Stone**  
*Independent Living Coordinator*

#### Penny Lamping

*Fundraising & Communications Manager*

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### IN THIS ISSUE

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- Local Artist - Amy D’apice

I am very excited to begin 2020 as the Chair of the HRB Board. For me, housing is personal. Housing insecurity and homelessness were a part of my childhood and shaped many of my early experiences. When I learned about the work HRB does in our community, I knew I wanted to be involved. The more I learn, the more I believe that providing affordable housing in our community is vital.



Lara Deits

The lack of affordable housing on this island is a larger issue than many people realize. Many became aware during this year's snow closures that approximately one-third of BISD staff live off island. BISD can't open schools when the staff is unable to drive to the island.

Beyond the school district, nearly 65 percent of workers on Bainbridge commute from off-island. This is concerning from an environmental standpoint and affects the island's ability to operate. If restaurants, shops, and other services aren't able to find individuals able to make their way to the island, we all suffer.

Our aging neighbors are increasingly unable to afford to live in the community in which they have spent much of their lives. This comes at a time when our seniors need the support of their community more than ever.

I am here today because I was given an opportunity, and I ask all of you to please join me in partnering with HRB to ensure we are able to give others that same chance – to attend our amazing schools, to live where they work, to age in the community they have always called home. This will only be possible with support from all of us.

Thank you so much,

*Lara Deits*

Lara Deits  
Chair of the Board Directors

## Independent Living Program



Independent Living Program participants, Bill and Benji

Since 2001, the Independent Living Program has played an integral role in furthering HRB's overall mission to preserve the diversity and vitality of Bainbridge Island. Each year the program assists dozens of seniors and individuals with disabilities make health and safety modifications

to their homes. The Independent Living Program works with individuals to reduce accessibility and safety barriers so that individuals can sustain their current housing and remain active members of our community.

The program relies on funding from the City of Bainbridge Island's Human Services grants as well private and philanthropic donations. In 2019, the average project expenditure was \$3,657 and included adaptations such as the installation of wheelchair ramps or grab bars, improvements to stairs and handrails, and mitigation to improve indoor air quality through mold removal.

The Independent Living Team, composed of Julie Stone and Irene Herman, meet with clients in their home to discuss needs and program eligibility. HRB then works with licensed and insured contractors to perform the proposed work under the supervision of Julie and Irene.

If you would like to learn more about the Independent Living Program or know an individual or household that might benefit from these services, call Julie Stone at (206) 842-1909, ext. 17.



Home modifications include bathroom safety features

## PSE Powerful Partnership

HRB is pleased to announce that our organization was awarded a 2020 PSE Powerful Partnership grant. In addition to providing funding, PSE and HRB will partner in a number of ways to educate our tenants and homeowners on ways to save energy and money on their electricity bills, as well as important information regarding safety and emergency preparedness. This yearlong partnership includes a financial contribution to support HRB's ongoing efforts in providing access to safe, affordable rentals and homes on Bainbridge Island.

about because he's seen the car dozens of times before; when the books in the local "tiny library" at the end of my street are changing fast and furious because of increased pedestrian traffic in the neighborhood.

These are all things that happen in a connected community – where people have the familiarity of place and neighbors, and they embrace the ease that comes with that familiarity. In my seven decades on Bainbridge Island, I have come to see that one of the most important ingredients in creating a connected community is to have a diversity of ages, incomes, and backgrounds. It's what I grew up with and what I hope we can have again, even as the spaces around us look different.

THE ISLAND (continued from page 1)



Corner of Winslow Way and Highway 305, circa 1969.

FROM THE DIRECTOR (continued from page 1)

note, Penny reflects on a lifetime of change on Bainbridge Island as someone who grew up here and raised her family with her husband, Tom.

I am also humbled by the support that our organization received from the community in 2019, including being honored as the Non-Profit of the Year by the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and why it serves each and every person on Bainbridge Island, please reach out to me. I also encourage you to visit our website to learn more about the enormous need for more affordable housing on Bainbridge Island.

With deep gratitude,

*Phedra Elliott*

Phedra Elliott  
Executive Director



David Brown of PSE presents the Powerful Partnership Grant Award to HRB Staff.



## LOCAL ARTIST, AMY D'APICE

recently donated a few images from her "Vanishing Bainbridge" series to help HRB raise awareness about the issue of affordable housing.



Amy moved to Bainbridge Island in 1986 and raised her family on the island. For the past seven years, Amy has split her time between Thailand and Bainbridge, and through her art she has captured the changing landscapes and amazing beauty of the island.

At HRB, we value her artwork and are grateful for her support and donation of these images. Stay tuned for more ways to view these works.

