



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND REVIEW

SOUND  
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**Feisty to  
the finish:  
BHS stops  
Sealth with  
incredible  
comeback.  
A14**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 | Vol. 114, No. 7 | WWW.BAINBRIDGEREVIEW.COM | 75¢

## Let's rock and robot!

# Game time draws near for BHS's first ever Robotics Club

BY LUCIANO MARANO  
*Bainbridge Island Review*

A group of teenagers from a small island community must surmount the odds and learn to work together as they engineer and construct a sophisticated robot to compete in a national robotics challenge.

If you think this is the plot of a John Hughes movie, you're wrong (but wouldn't that have been cool?).

It's actually real life at Bainbridge High School where, over the past several months, 35 students and nine adult mentors have come together to form the school's inaugural robotics club: The Bainbridge Spartronics.

The Spartronics will complete their customized robot and compete in at least two district competitions before setting their sights on the annual FIRST Robotics Competition later this year.

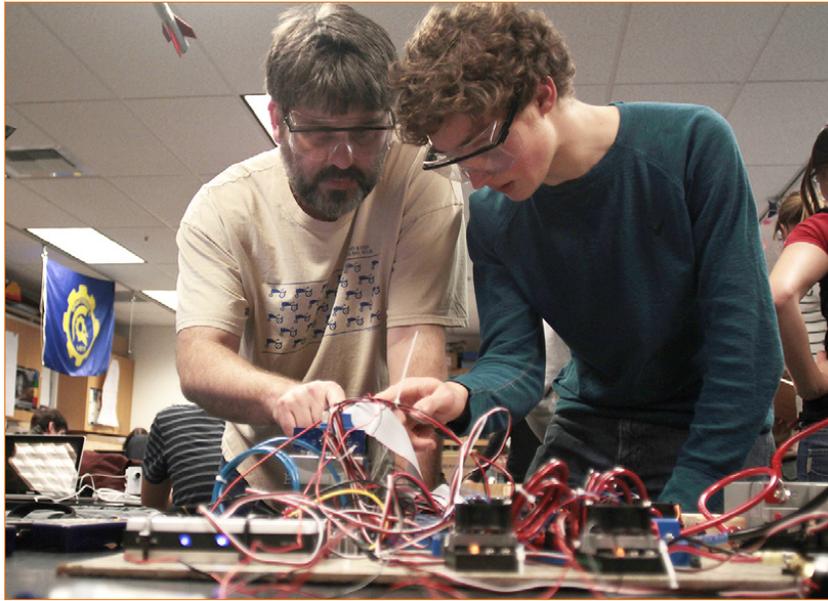
FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a national non-profit organization which seeks to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills.

The FIRST Robotics Competition, called "the varsity sport for the mind," challenges teams around the country to construct skill-based robots to compete in various fields of play.

According to the FIRST public website, "Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team brand, hone teamwork skills and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors."

Not wasting any time, the newly formed Spartronics have hit the ground running in their first year on the circuit and have already received the support of nearly a dozen local sponsors.

"Despite this being our first year, we have received tremendous support by the community and sponsors," said Spartronics Head Coach and BHS physics



Luciano Marano | Bainbridge Island Review

**Bainbridge High School robotics club mentor Stephen Hellriegel (left), a professional electrical engineer, assists BHS senior Ben Cowan (right) in troubleshooting the team robot's pneumatic-powered control system.**

teacher Enrique Chee. "Strong local support from terrific companies has allowed us to print team T-shirts, banners and stickers without charging team members."

Chee added that what the Spartronics lack in experience, they more than make up for in quality mentorship.

"Our mentors are Bainbridge Island engineers, programmers, business and marketing executives who live here and are lending their time and talents to help the team learn," Chee said. "This could not work with just a teacher. We need the mentors."

Students on the team agree that the presence and teaching of the mentors has made all the difference in getting the robot ready.

"You don't really need to know that much about robotics," BHS senior Ben Cowan confided. "I didn't. We have these men-

tors, and a few kids who know what they're doing. They teach everyone else. We have incredible mentors and a good amount of money for a rookie team. We're really lucky."

Cowan said he was familiar with the FIRST competitions, but with no such program available at Bainbridge he didn't think much of giving it a try, until this year.

"I had heard about it but I didn't know if it would actually happen," he said of the team. "I've always loved tinkering with things, but I'm not planning on being an electrical engineer, or an engineer at all. I love combining all the different aspects of the team. Having this experience as a senior is reminding me how much I love this type of stuff."

The departments and responsibilities of the team ensure that there is a right place for every interested student.

**"That's what makes  
this program so  
popular. There's a  
place for everyone."**

Enrique Chee  
BHS physics teacher

## Landslide yes vote for levies

BY BRIAN KELLY  
*Bainbridge Island Review*

Bainbridge Island voters overwhelmingly approved two levies to pay for education programs and operations and technology improvements for island schools during Tuesday's Special Election.

According to the initial vote count on Election Night, voters approved the Bainbridge Island School District's Educational Programs and Operations Levy with a 75.4 percent "yes" vote. Approximately 24.6 percent of Bainbridge voters cast ballots against the measure.

"We are just so incredibly grateful to our community for their commitment to education and support for our schools," said District Superintendent Faith Chapel.

"I think the level of support means a great deal to our staff," she said.

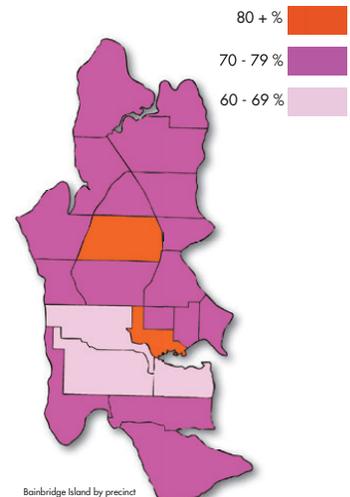
While voters on Bainbridge Island gave a beefy boost to public schools with their landslide approval of two three-year levies on Election Day, but no where was the support more stunning than in Crystal Springs and Winslow.

An analysis of unofficial precinct returns in the Feb. 11 Special Election by the Bainbridge Review shows that eight-in-10

TURN TO LEVIES | A17

### Feb. 11, 2014 Special Election Results

Bainbridge Island School District  
Educational Programs and Operations Levy



**Voter support for the Bainbridge schools operation levy exceeded 80 percent in the precincts of Crystal Springs and Winslow.**

TURN TO ROBOTS | A20

## Charlotte Dorothea Cuff

August 27, 1941 - December 6, 2013



Charlotte Dorothea Cuff passed away Dec. 6, 2013, at her home on Bainbridge Island. Char was born Aug. 27, 1941, in Nyack, N.Y. to George A. Cuff and Viola (Dolly) Dorothea (Rehberger) Cuff. Char's father, a supervisor with Gair Paper Co., was transferred to Montville, Conn. in 1955 and they made their

home in Giant's Neck, Niantic.

Char graduated from New London High School in Conn. and Lady Cliff College in Highland Falls, N.Y. Char majored in English Literature with a minor in Fine Arts. She was editor-in-chief of the LadyCliff Scroll.

The youngest of four children, Char was predeceased by her parents; sister Julie C. Trowbridge; brothers George W. Cuff and John D. Cuff, all of Conn.; nephew Jeffrey Cuff of Montville, Conn.; and grand nephews Larry V. Wilts of East Lyme, Conn. and Michael Cuff of Andover, Maine.

She is survived by her beloved Black lab Bojangles, eight nephews and six nieces, 30 great nephews and nieces and 20 great-great nephews and nieces, and one great-great-great nephew.

Char's first job out of college was on the Chevron staff at Lederle Laboratories in Pearl River, N.Y., (now Pfizer). During this time Char played first base on the women's professional fast pitch softball team Raybestos Brackettes in Stratford, Conn.

After answering a listing of "Man Wanted Job" she moved on to the Powerline Oil Company in Los Angeles, Calif. and was hired as editor of the official news publication "Independent." Award-winning and historical articles on petroleum in California, gas price wars and why they happen and a background of offshore drilling for oil were penned by Char. The paper doubled in size under her supervision. Char very often visited the oil fields to get a hands-on feel for the industry and was presented with a pink hard hat by the oil field crew as she trudged through the fields in her high heels.

Missing her large Irish family and the intense competition of the Northeast she moved back home to New York. Lederle had now been purchased by American Cyanamid Company, a leading American conglomerate which became one of the nation's top 100 manufacturing companies during the 1970s. American Cyanamid through many acquisitions is now a Pfizer company. Char was anxious to rejoin the ranks of her first employer and she was welcomed with high regard. She worked her way up the ranks, being the first woman to break through the glass ceiling of American Cyanamid's top management, earning the title of Director of Public Affairs, International Division.

During her time at Cyanamid Char met President Carter when Cyanamid partnered with the Carter Foundation to eradicate guinea worm in Africa.

Char retired to her beloved Bainbridge Island in 1996. While on Bainbridge she attended watercolor drawing classes at the Pratt Fine Arts Center in Seattle and the Winslow Art Center. An avid cook and being the consummate "editor," Char revised all printed recipes and the end result was mouth-watering. She was a true gourmet chef and planned many dinner parties for friends and family.

A skilled photographer, she loved photo-shooting the children in the family and flora and fauna. Inheriting the New York Yankee gene, Char enjoyed managing the team in her favorite chair on the West Coast and had numerous tips for Joe Torre.

Arrangements are being handled by Thomas L. Neilan & Sons, Niantic, Conn. A service will be held at a later date at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Animal Magnetism at 8926 Miller Road NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, or (206) 780-3960.

TRIBUTE Paid Notice

## Obituaries

### Carmel Ugles Myers

Carmel Ugles Myers was born on July 16, 1927 on Bainbridge Island to parents Sam and Amelia Ugles.

She graduated from Bainbridge High School in 1945.

Carmel attended Peterson's Business School and was employed at the FBI, New York Life, and Peterson Mortgage and Escrow.

Carmel passed away on Jan. 4, 2014 in Shoreline, Wash., joining her husband of 57 years, David P. Myers; brother, John; and sister, Mary. She leaves behind by her son, David G. Myers; daughter, Marta Torpey; brother, Peter (Velora) Ugles; sister-in-law, Molly Ugles; two grandchildren; and many loving extended family and friends.

Private family services were held at her final place of rest at Acacia Memorial Park, Seattle.



View the full obituary and share your memories online at [www.acaciafuneralhome.com](http://www.acaciafuneralhome.com).

### Glen Michael Fitch

Glen Michael Fitch passed away on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014 in Seattle, Washington.

He was born in Queens, N.Y. on July 18, 1957. He spent his earlier years living in San Diego, Calif. and Dutch Harbor, Alaska,



and finally settled on Bainbridge Island.

Glen worked as a factory manager for Northern Lights and coached lacrosse and youth football.

Glen leaves behind wife, Pamela Fitch; sons Joshua and Glen-Michael Jr.; step-daughter Victoria and step-son Daniel; as well as his father Ronald; sisters Kathy and Diane; brothers Raymond, Paul, Douglas and Chris; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother Irene

Fitch and brother James Fitch.

A memorial mass was held Wednesday, Feb. 5 at St. Cecilia's Parish on Bainbridge Island.

Sign the online guest book for the family at [www.cookfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.cookfamilyfuneralhome.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to offset medical expenses by mailing or dropping off a check at Columbia Bank, Attn: Stacy Lacy, payable to Pamela Fitch, with Glen Fitch Memorial Fund in the memo line, at 249 Winslow Way East, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

### Dorothy Tickler Nylund Meyer

Dorothy Tickler Nylund Meyer died on Feb. 8, 2014 at age 98.



She was born in Stephenson, Mich. on May 25, 1915 to William and Ursline Tickler.

She married Theodore

Nylund and lived on a dairy farm in Daggett, Mich.

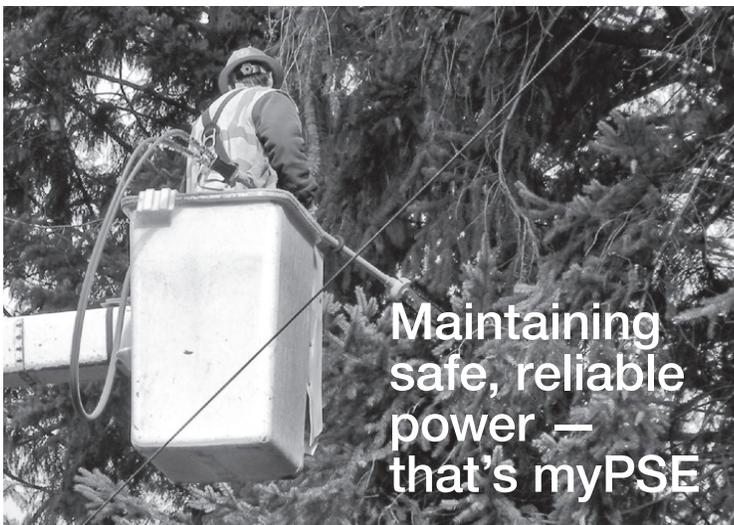
After the death of her husband, Theodore, she moved to Menominee, Mich. and worked for a community action agency and in the Menominee High School library. She later married Mel Meyer and they spent their last years on Bainbridge Island.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, a son, Ted, and a granddaughter, Carmen.

She is survived by her three daughters and their husbands, Kathleen Hanson of Gold River, Calif.; Noreen Braswell of Royston, Ga.; and Jeaneen Schmidt of Bainbridge Island. She is also survived by six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

A service in celebration of her life was held at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church on Bainbridge Island on Feb. 12.

Sign the online guest book at [www.cookfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.cookfamilyfuneralhome.com).



Maintaining safe, reliable power — that's myPSE

Tree branches are a major cause of power outages on Bainbridge Island. As part of PSE's routine maintenance and in preparation for a project to install specialized tree wire - wire that helps reduce power outages caused by fallen tree branches by up to 70 percent- PSE's contractor, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., will be trimming trees along local power lines. Look for tree crews in the following neighborhoods: South Battle Point, Island Center, Fletcher Bay, Crystal Springs, Point White, Lynwood Center, Winslow, Eagle Harbor, Bill Point, Creosote, Fort Ward, South Beach and Baker Hill.

Tree trimming is expected to take place as early as March 17 and last through August 2014; hours will be from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, please call our certified arborist at 360-475-7865.



[pse.com/trees](http://pse.com/trees)

PSE PUGET SOUND ENERGY

## ROBOTS

CONTINUED FROM A1

strict rules set in place by the officials at FIRST before facing their initial real-world test March 6 at the first regional event at Glacier Peak High School.

"We're doing a pretty good job for the first time," Chee said of the team. "We've been fortunate enough to minimize fundraising through grants and sponsors. For some rookie teams money becomes an issue."

Considering the response from the community sponsors, and the obvious enthusiasm of the student participants, why has BHS never had a robotics team before?

Chee, who had participated in the program when working at a different high school previously, said that in years past there had been a lack of willing support around Bainbridge.

"Years ago there was no monetary support," he said. "No willing mentors."

That, clearly, is no longer the case.

To learn more about the team, and to learn all the latest Spartronics news, visit the website designed and updated by the team's marketing group at [www.spartronics4915.com](http://www.spartronics4915.com).

For News that Clicks with You  
[www.BainbridgeReview.com](http://www.BainbridgeReview.com)