

Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode #7, "How strong roots grow into local leaders"
Sno-Isle Libraries, Oct. 22, 2018



Ken Harvey: 00:00:00 Welcome to episode seven of the Check It Out! Podcast from Sno-Isle Libraries. This is the podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds and made possible by the support of the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. In this episode, we'll spend time with the president of the Sno-Isle Libraries policy setting group, otherwise known as the Board of Trustees, and the board president of a special group of individuals who raise private funds to support innovative library programming across the Sno-Isle Libraries district. We'll explore the paths which led them to where they are today and to their current involvement with Sno-Isle Libraries.

Speaker 2: 00:00:40 The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.

Ken Harvey: 00:00:47 I'm your Check It Out! host Ken Harvey, and joining me for this episode is the world famous musician and singer co-host, Paul Pitkin, who also happens to serve as the executive director of Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. Hi, Paul.

Paul Pitkin: 00:01:01 Hi Ken, I'm blushing. Thank you.

Ken Harvey: 00:01:03 Well, so are you working on a music projects right now?

Paul Pitkin: 00:01:06 A couple but it's top secret. I can't reveal it or I'll have to kill you.

Ken Harvey: 00:01:11 Well, would you like to just hum it in my ear?

Paul Pitkin: 00:01:14 No, I can't do that.

Ken Harvey: 00:01:15 Okay. So, just music projects means that at some point you'll be doing it live or-

Paul Pitkin: 00:01:23 It will be accessible-

Ken Harvey: 00:01:25 In the studio.

(Continued)

Paul Pitkin: 00:01:25 Yeah, I'll be recording in the studio.

Ken Harvey: 00:01:27 Oh, great. And we look forward to that. And at some point, maybe we will put a link on the podcast page to some of your music.

Paul Pitkin: 00:01:35 That would be great. I certainly will appreciate it.

Ken Harvey: 00:01:37 Okay. Well, we are delighted to have two guests with us in the studio for this episode. I would describe them as Super supporters of Sno-Isle Libraries. Marti Anamosa and Terry Lippincott. Marti Anamosa is a retired attorney who has served as president of the Sno-Isle Libraries Board of Trustees from 2017 through 2018. She's a resident from the south end of Whidbey Island which is just a beautiful place here in our corner of the world. And then Terry Lippincott is the president of the nonprofit Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. And she's also part of a community nonprofit group, The Friends of Snohomish Library. And Terry is a resident from a city that my wife and I had checked out when we were looking for a home, Snohomish, Washington. So Welcome to you both.

Terry Lippincott: 00:02:29 Thank you. Happy to be here.

Marti Anamosa: 00:02:30 Thanks again.

Ken Harvey: 00:02:30 Well, gosh, we really appreciate you spending some time with us and with our audience and we are just looking forward to learning a lot more about you. So, I don't know which one of you would like to start but ... So let me just say Marti, you live on the south end of Whidbey Island. Why Whidbey Island?

Marti Anamosa: 00:02:50 Because it is so beautiful. When my husband and I were looking for a place to retire 20 years ago, we checked out a couple places and many, many trips to Whidbey and getting the local newspaper for six months convinced us that it was place for us.

Ken Harvey: 00:03:06 Well, and Terry you decided to locate in Snohomish.

Terry Lippincott: 00:03:10 Yes, I did.

Ken Harvey: 00:03:11 So why there?

Terry Lippincott: 00:03:12 Well, I grew up in Everett. So, a country drive for me as a child was to the Dairy Queen out in Snohomish. I thought that was the end of the earth. And then growing up I realized it was just across the valley. I started my teaching career in Sultan and

wanted to raise my daughter in Snohomish which is an excellent school district and so I relocated to there when she was four.

Ken Harvey: 00:03:34 So when you were growing up in Everett and driving out to the Dairy Queen, did it look much different in the Snohomish area than it does now?

Terry Lippincott: 00:03:44 The River Road is the same which is the road that we would take. The Dairy Queen is now a barbecue joint, good barbecue joint by the way. But the town itself is much more vibrant. As a child, a lot of boarded up buildings, it seemed very rural to me. There was certainly an odiferous quality to it that remains which we love, we've grown to love. It just means things are healthy and growing out in the field.

Ken Harvey: 00:04:10 It's the rich sense of smell of life.

Terry Lippincott: 00:04:14 It is. Absolutely, yes, yes.

Ken Harvey: 00:04:18 Well, so it sounds like there's some population growth that's happening in Snohomish and becoming kind of it's own bustling center.

Terry Lippincott: 00:04:27 Yes, correct. It's become a destination place. And our downtown, which is a historic downtown right on the river is protected by our historic standards. So you won't see a McDonald's downtown, you will just see the buildings intact and businesses like home furnishings, antiques, breweries, lots of breweries, cideries, distilleries.

Ken Harvey: 00:04:47 And great barbecue.

Terry Lippincott: 00:04:48 And great barbecue right on the corner.

Paul Pitkin: 00:04:50 Yeah, my uncle has a ranch out in Gold Bar. So many, many years ago when I would be staying out there, a big trip to the city would be going to Snohomish. We'd go out there and buy some, my cousin and I would go there and buy some guitar strings or something and go to the DQ and it was quite a journey.

Marti Anamosa: 00:05:11 Was it the only restaurant in town then?

Paul Pitkin: 00:05:14 It may have been actually.

Terry Lippincott: 00:05:16 No, the Silver King down on the river, that was sort of the old establishment that people would go to and they had a big bar.

But the Dairy Queen was family oriented. I think that was what it was.

- Ken Harvey: 00:05:28 So Marti, you describe Whidbey Island as a beautiful place and especially the south end. Are you seeing kind of any evidence of population change and growth?
- Marti Anamosa: 00:05:38 Whidbey's Island's population has not grown significantly in the last 20 years. It's grown some but not a lot. You see new very small subdivisions. A subdivision on Whidbey Island maybe 10 houses. The population is changing, though, particularly on South Whidbey. It's getting older. The school district is actually shrinking. They've consolidated from four schools to two schools just in the last 10 years. The school district has dropped considerably in the last 15 years. It's becoming more a place for retirees. A much more of an art community than it used to be.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:06:20 Is there any movement to try to change that or is it just that's the way it's going to, you know, that's kind of its direction?
- Marti Anamosa: 00:06:28 I think there's a constant move to try to change it. The obstacles are affordable housing. It's difficult to find houses that are affordable for people who are teachers, who are the firemen, who are working in the stores, who own the stores. I think like Seattle, it's kind of a tough economic situation.
- Ken Harvey: 00:06:55 When I listen to the two in some ways, kind of contrasting community areas, what strikes me is that there are upsides and downsides to both. For someone who may have been in Snohomish decades ago and who really enjoyed more of a laid back vibe, they really like the quiet and they've seen the attraction of new residents there and new businesses and a different level of energy. That comes with kind of the good and the not so good.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:07:33 We also in Snohomish are experiencing the affordable housing crunch, and it is difficult. You want to encourage people to come but it is a higher price a set of houses there. And so I also serve on the Planning Commission and we're always looking at ways to sort of encourage new housing but also mix that with low income and mixed use housing and things. So it's tough, I think it's tough all over in Washington right now.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:07:59 South Whidbey has just a dearth of multifamily housing. Part of that is because there are only three incorporated cities and outside the city, there are no sewers. And so, if you build a

multifamily 15, 20 unit apartment building, you have to provide your own system. It's really difficult, yeah.

Ken Harvey: 00:08:25 Terry, you mentioned growing up in Everett. Which high school did you go to?

Terry Lippincott: 00:08:32 I grew up in sort of Central Everett on Grand Avenue near what now is the Phoenix Alternative School. My time it was South Junior High. So I would have gone to Everett High School. But then through family change, we moved out to South Everett, and I ended up graduating from Cascade, which was a really great experience.

Ken Harvey: 00:08:51 So do you remember what the mascot of the school was?

Terry Lippincott: 00:08:52 It was a big old bruin. And the seagulls from downtown Everett would come and paint it every year, not in a flattering way.

Ken Harvey: 00:09:03 School colors for you were?

Terry Lippincott: 00:09:05 Crimson and gray I believe. Yes.

Ken Harvey: 00:09:09 What about you, Marti?

Marti Anamosa: 00:09:10 I went to high school and junior high in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Which was just a wonderful multicultural place to grow up. I think like most places, we didn't appreciate the value of the multiculturalism as much as we might now. I went to Sandia High School when we were the Matadors, crimson and blue. And I honor that, Sandia Matadors with the ringtone on my phone, which is matador music.

Paul Pitkin: 00:09:43 So you're reminded every day of your high school experience?

Marti Anamosa: 00:09:47 Only when my phone rings which isn't every day.

Paul Pitkin: 00:09:52 I had a question for both of you. You're both such big library supporters. So I guess I would like to kind of start with, I know you're both avid readers. What got you into reading so that even now you're still reading all the time? How did that grow in you? Was it like when you were a child? Was it later on? When did you become such big readers?

Marti Anamosa: 00:10:19 By the time I was in first grade, I was reading multiple books a week. I remember in third grade we had to put a little pink slip in an envelope for every book that we read. Once a week, you'd take your books up to the teacher's desk and talk to her about

all the books you've read. And I know even in third grade, there were times I'd have 15 books. I've been a fanatic reader my whole life.

- Paul Pitkin: 00:10:43 What about you, Terry?
- Terry Lippincott: 00:10:44 Both my parents were avid readers. And it was one of the things when growing up that we were given credit for, were being good readers. And so my parents both modeled that for us. And also, it was free and that was a big plus.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:11:00 Free entertainment.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:11:01 Free entertainment. I have this memory, we lived for a while in Wenatchee and the bookmobile came to the neighborhood, and I remember climbing those steps and going in and being so in awe of all of the free books. We would load up. And at one point, I don't remember if it was ever at Wenatchee, the library questioned my mother about the number of books, there were four of us and we took as many as we could. The library said, they can't possibly be reading all those books. Are you sure? My mother just looked at her and said, "Test them. Go ahead, ask them." So, it was something that early on, it was modeled in the home, it was something that was encouraged. It took me places that I wanted to go.
- Ken Harvey: 00:11:44 That was something modeled in our home as well growing up. I remember thinking that everyone like our family had their own encyclopedia sets at home and had kind of primary readers on their shelves all the time. When I look back on my own childhood, it makes it seem so rich that those materials were always available. So that one of my most favorite pastimes was simply grabbing a book either from the library or in our home library and off the shelf and saying, oh, I wonder what's within these pages and sitting down and reading.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:12:30 I was the youngest of four and so I was always looking for places to disappear to. I would build a nest in the car. I would leave the house, walk out to the car with my blankets, and whatever snack I could grab that was left after the other three had gotten to the kitchen and with my book, and I would build a nest and I would often be out in the car.
- Ken Harvey: 00:12:55 I can relate to that. Where were you in birth order?
- Marti Anamosa: 00:12:55 I'm the fifth child out of nine. If you think there is a need to escape, I was the master at disappearing into the netherworld. I

remember the my elementary school library, which we didn't have when I was in like first and second grade, but in third grade they opened a new library. And the whole bottom shelf it seemed all the way around the library was these little orange biographies. And that got me into history. And I'm sure they were all whitewashed horribly. Most of what was in them isn't really true but it really got me into history, to reading about all the presidents of the United States. I just had this desire to work my way all the way around the library and read every one of those books. I got pretty close.

Paul Pitkin: 00:13:41 I think it's kind of pretty cool to think about the foundation, one of our missions is to support lifelong learning. And reading is actually a way, even when you're not, maybe you're retired or you live in a remote area or something like that, reading is a way to just keeping engaging with the world in a way that you can't otherwise. If you start as a kid and it's like your way to escape, and then later on, it's kind of your way to stay connected. It's kind of an interesting thing.

Ken Harvey: 00:14:14 I really relate to the birth order issues because I was the first of six children. I too found a nest and an escape in reading. And it's just interesting what reading just can do in terms of helping you expand not just your imagination but also your heart and your interest in things beyond yourself. So, I just really appreciate the work that both of you do that helps encourage others to read and helps kind of ensure that the services Sno-Isle Libraries offers can be made available to so many individuals.

Ken Harvey: 00:15:02 So, I would love to just know a little bit more about kind of the work that you both are doing on behalf of readers here. So Terry, starting with you, you're the president of the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Terry Lippincott: 00:15:16 Correct.

Ken Harvey: 00:15:18 So tell us what that's like and why do you do that?

Terry Lippincott: 00:15:23 Well, I take it seriously. It's a huge responsibility. It's an honor to serve. What we do as a foundation is to support the Sno-Isle programming. So at the beginning of each meeting, on the wall of our meeting room are the goals, strategies and vision for Sno-Isle. And a typical meeting is thinking about budget requests. Do they meet the Sno-Isle goals and strategies? And if they do, then why wouldn't we fund it? But then, of course, the question is, do we have enough money? So that's always the question. We are a fundraising organization and our job is to support Sno-Isle programming. And I couldn't be prouder of the job that Sno-

Isle does, not only in its 24 libraries, but also reaching out into the community, and especially our most vulnerable parts of the community. people that need jobs, people that are starting small businesses, our veterans, our homeless, our toddlers that are just learning to read and getting excited about school.

- Terry Lippincott: 00:16:22 So, we look for possible funding sources all the time.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:16:27 All the time.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:16:28 All the time. Paul is a master at grant writing and we hold a couple of donor appreciation events a year.
- Ken Harvey: 00:16:35 So you mentioned money coming from, coming that's then made available for request from Sno-Isle Libraries. I'd like to just kind of investigate that a little bit more. So dive deeper. So where does that money come from? You mentioned grants and you mentioned other fundraising events.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:16:55 It's essentially, our funds come from individuals, just giving a donation. They come from grants, they come from corporate sponsorships. We try to have a diversified sort of donor portfolio. As with almost all nonprofits, the majority of our money comes from individual donations. And that we solicit those face to face. We have direct mail campaign. We get them at our events. Terry is a great asker. One of the best askers I've ever seen. But that's really what we, we spend the year raising money so that we can give it out.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:17:36 And we appreciate getting it. I think the Board of Trustees realizes how critically important this foundation support is to programming at the library. I mean, there are some things that we want to try out that the foundation supports us on trying things out. There are some things we just can't do with tax dollars, not many, but prizes for kids, not prizes, incentives for kids for summer reading programs. Kids go three months without doing any work with their brains during the summer. They lose a lot of what they learned the previous year. And summer reading is just a great way to keep kids involved in learning all year and it's a big deal.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:18:25 If I could to tag onto that having taught 25 years. I know those kids coming in the fall, it's immediately obvious the kids that haven't done much reading. I was just in our Snohomish Library yesterday and we were asked for an emergency budget request from the friends to buy more incentive books, those are the prizes that kids get, which is great, you read, you get a prize,

which is a book, yay. And we doubled. Right now in just the Snohomish District, the Snohomish School District, we have 1400 kids participating in summer reading.

- Marti Anamosa: 00:18:58 Wow, that's great. That is super.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:18:59 That has doubled since last year. You walk into your library and you see kids showing up just smiling ear to ear and you know what they're there for, that they're participating in that kind of a program. And that will tell in the fall.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:19:13 And you know, that is exactly why I donate to the foundation. You see the difference when you donate to the foundation because the programming that the foundation supports is so important. Not just kids but the adult programming we do, issues that matter. I saw people in tears at some of the mental health forums that were put on, just because somebody was listening, somebody was hearing what they had to say and there was professionals there to answer some of their questions. That is so important to our community that we're out there getting information to people who would otherwise just have no source to bring it to them.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:19:57 I think we should mention that Marti is actually one of the founding, one of the, kind of you were there at the beginning when the foundation just got started, I believe, right?
- Marti Anamosa: 00:20:08 Yeah. The foundation had been formed I think in 2000 as sort of a passive entity to take unsolicited donations that were made. And in 2003 and 2004, they decided to ramp it up into a real fundraising organization and that's when I joined the foundation board and served on that board until 2010 when I joined the board of trustees. I was president of the foundation for about four years in there somewhere. That's also when we started funding, trying out something for Sno-Isle, the teen programming. They wanted to start a major push to get teens more engaged and they started in four libraries and the foundation provided \$30,000 of funding for that. It was tremendously successful looking at what kids, how their rates of checking things out in the library increased dramatically over the periods that we looked at. Their parents were surveyed and the parents said the kids were far more engaged. We funded that for several years and then the library, it was so successful, the library brought it inside as a regular part of their programming.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:21:22 I'm wondering if you can, I think it's really, obviously you're kind of a lifer for Sno-Isle Libraries. I mean that as a compliment.

Marti Anamosa: 00:21:31 I have a tattoo.

Paul Pitkin: 00:21:34 You can all look forward to that if you become a lifer. How is it different being on the board of trustees compared to working with the foundation? Because they're very different seems like-

Marti Anamosa: 00:21:45 They're very different, yeah. The foundation is a fundraising entity. It requires that you know what the programming needs of the library system are. It's fundraising. the Board of Trustees is far more a policy and oversight board. We also get involved in knowing what the programming is. I think some of our biggest things are the budget. We oversee the budget and approve the budget. Facilities planning, working with the facilities teams on looking at where we need to provide more services and better services. Evaluating the executive director, that's something we take really seriously and do it once a year.

Marti Anamosa: 00:22:30 And this year, the biggest thing we've done is we're in the process of hiring a new executive director to replace Jonalyn Woolf-Ivory who is retiring at the end of this year. That's been a process that's been ongoing for almost a year, but it's been in really high gear since May. And so it's been rewarding where almost at the end of that process, hopefully within the next week, we'll be able to say yes, but we're not quite there yet.

Ken Harvey: 00:23:01 So how satisfying is it for both of you serving on the boards and that you're on?

Marti Anamosa: 00:23:09 I love it. There are things to do in retirement that I don't do. I don't play golf, I don't play tennis. I don't paint. I wish I could paint but I can't. That's one talent I don't have. I feel like serving on the board of trustees is a great mix for my desire to give back to my community and the skill set that I have. As a retired attorney, I dealt with people, dealt with problem solving, did a lot of writing.

Ken Harvey: 00:23:42 And contracts.

Marti Anamosa: 00:23:43 And contracts. I've been doing a little bit of that lately. But it's something that, what I really wanted to do once we moved to Whidbey Island was get involved in my community and participate in the community and give back. And this is such a rewarding way to do it. I think in a small community such as on Whidbey Island, the library is just the heart and soul of the community. And to see the way it serves such a wide variety of the people, I mean, literally from the oldest to the youngest, it's it's really very, very rewarding.

- Terry Lippincott: 00:24:23 I would echo everything that Marti has said except my career was in teaching and not in law. So again, youngest of four, I was used to asking for things so I have no trouble going out asking for money. It's much like asking for an allowance.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:24:38 It's interesting, I'm youngest of three.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:24:39 So you know, you know how that goes. So the Snohomish community I taught, that's where I ended up retiring. I had to retire early because of some health concerns. So that was really tough for me. I sort of felt untethered for a while and trying to look around and say, who am I now, how do I matter. And I found that through the libraries, I can find enormous satisfaction and a sense of giving back to a community that was very, very good to me and continues to be very good to me. So, I serve as president of our friends of the library, I manage our book sale room and I serve on the foundation board. And those are incredibly rewarding. I also find myself out in the community talking to people. I have a friend, for example, who makes amazing biscotti and I keep trying to get her to go to Marysville to our business starter lab and get herself going that way.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:25:33 I was in the library just yesterday and I saw senior citizen walk up to the reference desk and he needed help with a computer and it happened to be our managing librarian, Jude, and he said, well now, do you know how to log on. This guy is like, I don't even know how to turn it on. Jude said that's why we're here. And this man did not have access to a computer at home, obviously. And they spent a good half an hour together. And he walked out with the biggest smile on his face having been served. So he'll be back.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:26:04 So, seeing those kinds of things almost on a daily basis, how the library not only reaches out in the community, but also draws the community in has been enormously satisfying to me.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:26:15 Your example that you just gave reminds me of, people ask are libraries still relevant, why do we still need libraries? Sure, we have a lot of books and we have a lot of magazines and a lot of DVDs. But what we really have that you don't find anywhere else is the people who can tell you how to find information, how to use that computer.
- Ken Harvey: 00:26:39 Who'll take the time to share it with them.

- Marti Anamosa: 00:26:42 Yeah. You call up and you say, I need some help, can someone spend a half hour or an hour with me? And hey, somebody will spend a half hour or an hour teaching you how to use your computer or helping you research how to make a biscotti business into something bigger. It's the people. Sno-Isle has just the best. When you look at all of the librarians who have graduate degrees in Information Science, these people know how to find information. We use the library a lot when we're getting ready to travel, especially to someplace that's a little offbeat, a little less traveled. And it's just great. The resources and the people who can tell you what's out there. How do you find out where to go. We went to Poland right after it opened up, and being able to walk into a library and say, I'm going to Poland and there aren't any guidebooks help. And people know how to do that.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:27:42 It's great.
- Ken Harvey: 00:27:44 Well, I think that there is this one element that you just kind of refer to Marti that is just so important. So many times in our society, it is difficult to find someone or someplace where you can go and ask, you can go and admit, I need help to find information. But at the library and through the library, you can find that help just waiting for you and you can ask for that guidance without embarrassment.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:28:15 They want to help. They're there to help and they know how to find what you need. That is just the most amazing thing. There's no place else like a library that has that sort of resource available, people who know how to do things.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:28:33 And will meet you with respect and empathy and compassion. One of the things I really love about the library is its democratic principles. They're not going to ask you your credit limit, they're not going to ask you how much you want to spend, they're not going to ask you where you come from, did you come in a car, what kind of car. They don't care, they want to help. And so, anyone can walk through those doors regardless of economic status and get exactly the same kind of help, exactly the same kind of connection. And that, where else does that exist?
- Marti Anamosa: 00:29:04 I guess another thing that the library brings to it is that it's free and equal access to information. That information is all sorts of information. On the board of trustees, we occasionally will have things brought to our attention where somebody wants to bring in a newspaper that has a certain slant to it that's pretty extreme on one side of some issue. And hey, we're a library. We will find a way for people to have access to that information,

whether we like it or not, whether it suits our own political or social comfort level. It's information and we will make sure that people have access to information.

- Paul Pitkin: 00:29:49 I think that that's one of the things that we're all alluding to is that there's all this information out there and it's almost too much. At a library, you can have it sort of curated for you. I need to learn about this, whereas, as opposed to, you just go straight on the internet. There's so many choices, you don't even know where to look. And even learning how to use an app or learning how to use a computer, I was thinking about, Ken said, you don't have to be embarrassed to ask for help. I was thinking more of like, I don't have to throw my phone through the window out of frustration because I can't operate an application or something like that. You're right. It's just about the people.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:30:26 The world of technology and information can be very overwhelming and very difficult. And to have a place where you don't have to feel bad to ask for help and where people will help you without selling you something is an incredibly valuable resource.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:30:42 At each library, almost all the librarians are very technologically savvy but there's also usually one person, at least one person designated at each library as the tech specialist. And these people know everything.
- Ken Harvey: 00:30:56 They sure seem to.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:30:57 There's a librarian who used to work at the Langley library, she's at another community library now. I was having trouble with something on my computer and I just called up and I said, can I get 15 minutes of your time. We went to a table and she sat down and bingo, she not only did what needed to be done, but she taught me how to do what needed to be done. And that's just incredibly valuable.
- Ken Harvey: 00:31:26 I have a mom who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our family has been interested in years in getting her to use a computer and getting her to move from a flip phone to a smartphone. She would always say the same thing, well, I'll need to take a class for that and I'm going to take a class for that to learn how to do it. I finally suggested to her, mom, go to the library and ask one of the librarians to show you how to use this smartphone that we ended up buying for her, and someone will help you. And sure enough, shortly thereafter, we started receiving texts from her with emoticons and images through an

instant messaging service and we realized that something has changed. When I inquired from her, she said, yeah, I'm so glad that you suggested that to me because I did ask and this very nice young person showed me how to do it.

- Terry Lippincott: 00:32:37 Well, true story in today's paper, the Everett Herald, Sno-Isle is offering classes in exactly that. So you can reserve a spot in the class or just simply walk in, or you can call the library and book a librarian and for an hour and get their personal attention. And they're happy to help.
- Ken Harvey: 00:32:54 Well, during your careers, did you find that technology changed much when you were-
- Marti Anamosa: 00:33:00 Oh my God.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:33:01 I think particularly for both of your professions-
- Marti Anamosa: 00:33:05 You know the concept of dial up? Before dial up, you just dialed your telephone, that's the only thing that would dial. We've come a long way baby.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:33:16 I don't know that I could walk into a classroom today with smart boards and things that are accessible. I think nothing beats good solid information wherever it comes from. But the advances in technology in the classroom with smartphones and access to information, and you don't need encyclopedias in the back of the classroom anymore because you have it in your phone or your smart board. So yes, it has changed dramatically.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:33:42 Last week, the Board of Trustees was meeting over a new executive director issue. And one of our board members who's also an attorney was going out every now and then and messing on his phone. He was filing court papers by his smartphone.
- Ken Harvey: 00:33:59 Wow.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:33:59 Don't you wish back in the day.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:34:04 I never was a litigator but I know it's like, we kept courier businesses, where some guy would come in and pick it up and take it to the courthouse and come back and bring you the receipt. It's like light years of change.
- Ken Harvey: 00:34:19 It's really amazing. So have you seen in the time, the years that you have been around libraries that the technology either

offered by the library or that seems to be used by the library to run how that's changed as well?

- Terry Lippincott: 00:34:38 I just read something recently from the US Census Board about our low income veterans, and 65% of them not having access to internet or broadband. So they're coming into the library to do job searches to look for information, medical information or whatever. We have little kids who come in, they're so cute. Some of our computers are older and they will touch the screen and try to swipe, and they don't swipe, there's a mouse attached. As quickly as we try to fund new technology, sometimes it seems like we fall behind. But yeah, in fact, we just Skyped with a board member. We have the ability to have remote meetings, those kinds of things. So technology is amazing today.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:35:21 In the search for a new executive director, our semifinal interviews were Skype interviews. We were in another conference room here at the Sno-Isle Service Center where there's a, I don't know, almost a wall size screen. So our candidates would be there, and it was the size of the-
- Ken Harvey: 00:35:42 Yeah, almost life size.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:35:42 Yeah, they were basically life size sitting there talking to us. We had a few technological glitches now and then. Another thing that's changed so much is I read probably three or four books a week. I don't go into the library nearly as often as I used to because I download Kindle books, I download audio books. Occasionally, I get a real book in print and I'm always pressing on words hoping Kindle thing will come up and tell me what it really means. That whole technology of having electronic downloadable resources is just amazing. In 2010, it was just beginning. At this point, about 25% of our checkouts are electronic downloads, which is a huge change in just eight years.
- Ken Harvey: 00:36:32 So is that something that you find that friends and acquaintances or family members are surprised to hear that the library actually offers?
- Terry Lippincott: 00:36:41 I had a conversation with someone in the checkout line at the grocery store. They were complaining about their Comcast bill, how much it was and they didn't need all of those channels. I mentioned the number of DVDs available for checkout and they were shocked. They had no idea that those were sitting right there waiting for them to come get them.

Ken Harvey: 00:37:00 At the library.

Terry Lippincott: 00:37:01 At the library or to download. They promised me they would come in and check it out. But yes, I find that what is available is so much larger our catalog because of technology. It isn't just books and magazines. If you remove that, there are classes, there are online presence, you can look at our TED Talks online, you can pull up things that weren't available to us.

Paul Pitkin: 00:37:26 And you don't have to sign up for like 12 different apps. It truly drives me crazy. My phone is just clogged with all these applications that are meant to cover some aspect of technology. But when you go to the library, it's all in one spot, which to me is a huge help.

Ken Harvey: 00:37:45 Well, I've had some interesting conversations recently with retail salespeople selling electronic devices. And in each case, younger person, which is easier and easier for me to say since it seems like so many individuals are younger than I am, that they were surprised to discover that the library offered downloadable books and downloadable music and streaming videos and research databases that could be accessed on, or that you could learn a language online through the library. It just really reminded me that there's still work for us to do to get the word out about all that the library offers.

Terry Lippincott: 00:38:35 So I read an article in the Everett Herald in the opinion page and Forbes magazine published an article quoting an economist who said that Amazon bookstores could do the same thing that libraries could do. They received such a deluge of tweets and angry messages that after two days, they took the article down. Oops, my bad.

Paul Pitkin: 00:38:57 The people have spoken.

Terry Lippincott: 00:38:58 People have spoken. Yes, yes.

Paul Pitkin: 00:39:01 I was curious. I wanted to talk to both of you about your past careers. So, Terry, I wanted to find out from you, I know you taught some Elementary, but you also taught, I guess what nowadays they called middle school. I was curious what kind of the subjects you taught, what you liked to teach. I wanted to talk to Marti about what your lawyer, when you were lawyering, what was your specialty? But I'll start with you, Terry. What kind of kids did you like, what kind of kids did you not like? What sort of subjects did you like to teach? Because I've seen you talk to

student age kids, and you do have just this instant teacher talk that is very effective. So I just was curious about it.

- Terry Lippincott: 00:39:48 25 years in education, predominantly middle school. I went up to the high school for one year to teach seniors. And at the end of the year, I said, I can't live like this. You all do what you're told and you don't need me and I don't want to know you're living in your car. And so I went back to the middle school. So sixth, seventh and eighth probably my favorite. I thought sixth graders were it because you had them all day and you could mold them and that was the best. And then I discovered seventh graders who kind of have this weird sense of humor and that just was perfect for me. And I thought that was the best. And then I found eighth graders and that's where I landed and was the most happy I think. They're sort of pre High School. You can still get them to do what you want them to.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:40:29 Taught mostly history, language arts as well. And then also having taught in Sultan and Snohomish, and I have a K-12 degree, so whatever they threw out me. Our debate, leadership, whatever it was that they needed. So, it's sort of an interesting career that way. The kids I like the most were the most challenging.
- Ken Harvey: 00:40:49 Could I jump in just a second?
- Terry Lippincott: 00:40:50 Sure.
- Ken Harvey: 00:40:51 So why a teacher? When did you decide that you wanted to teach?
- Terry Lippincott: 00:40:54 You know, it's interesting. Most elementary teachers will tell you that they used to line their dolls up and they'd play classroom and they knew, they knew from the get go that that's what they wanted to do. I was not a great student. I actually got my act together in my senior year. I graduated in 73. Got a four point and drug my grade point up to a 2.3. That's how bad a student I was.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:41:22 What were you doing in high school, Terry?
- Terry Lippincott: 00:41:24 Well, it was the 70s. You decide.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:41:27 Okay.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:41:30 I actually walked into a college prep English class my senior year and the teacher said, "Oh, no, no, no, not you. No." I had to

convince him that I belonged, that I really was serious. So I started at a community college because of course, my grades weren't great. And it took me probably my junior year of college to realize that teaching might be something I would enjoy. I wanted to be an archaeologist frankly. And then I wanted to work for the Secret Service and all of that, but I can't keep a secret. That threw that career out the window. I found that I really enjoyed working with kids, that it was something that I was drawn to, and especially challenging kids.

- Terry Lippincott: 00:42:07 So it was early on in the days of inclusion when they brought kids in that you might normally not see whether they were developmentally delayed.
- Ken Harvey: 00:42:16 They were mainstreaming.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:42:17 They were mainstreaming, and I was a huge advocate for that and felt like those kids belonged and deserve to be there. And so, it was interesting times to say the least.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:42:28 Marti, on to you. You've got a tough act to follow there.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:42:34 Luckily, I graduated just a little earlier and so didn't have quite that problem.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:42:44 I think about, there was a, I won't disclose any names, but I remember we were, the foundation was talking about having somebody speak at an event and Marti was our trusty liaison at the time. And she said, oh, yeah, I remember him. He yelled at me and stormed out of the office when we were doing a negotiation for, when I was practicing. You could tell us a little bit about what you were working on in those days.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:43:16 I started my practice many moons ago in the 70s doing mostly small business and corporate practice.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:43:26 So you were doing law while Terry was doing whatever she was doing.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:43:26 I graduated from law school in 79. I worked several years before I went back to law school. Was doing mostly small business law. And over the years, kind of evolved more into real estate and then finally, environmental cleanups. I worked the last probably eight or nine years of my career for a subsidiary, Burlington Northern Railroad. Railroads have a lot of contaminated property, and they have a lot of property. When this guy stormed out of the office, we were negotiating for the purchase

of a large attractive property in Seattle. A really prime development piece which is now developed. Actually, I did a lot of negotiations. I always had a business practice, not a litigation practice. Negotiations over real estate deals, partnership deals, limited partnerships. A lot of tax work. A lot of corporate structure type work.

- Marti Anamosa: 00:44:28 And then when I got into environmental cleanups, it was in the context of the company wanted to sell off all of the real estate, and we really needed to know what we were selling. And so, I was given the job of doing environmental assessments on about 500 pieces of property in 26 states. So we engaged consultants in different places to do phase one assessments to kind of tell us what we had. Some of them we needed to do more soil sampling and water sampling and things like that. Then some of them, we turned back to the tenants who had contaminated the property. Some of them we tried to turn back, by that time we had been separated from Burlington Northern, we were under Burlington Resources, which was a different corporation. We tried to get the railroad to take back or clean up some and that was, we had mixed success on that front. Basically, we managed to sell off about \$800 million worth of property.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:45:32 You guys make me feel really stupid. The brain power in this room is making me sweat. Just kind of along the same lines of you guys' career, you both do a lot of things, even beyond the library, I know, Marti, you've gotten into elections. And Terry, you're working for the Carnegie Building.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:45:53 I recently just in the past year and a half joined the Carnegie Foundation. So in Snohomish, we're lucky enough to still have a Carnegie building. It was our library until we were able to build our new library in 2002. It has a 1970s attachment on it which is horrific and fortunately, is coming off, it's going to be detached like a cancerous growth. And we are working toward the city of Snohomish, very supportive, and we're working toward rehabbing that building and bringing it back to its original grandeur and having it be a city facility for everyone to enjoy.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:46:27 I also serve on the Planning Commission in Snohomish. That's fascinating. And brings it back to my interest in low income housing and making sure everyone has a place to live. I tutor and I teach classes for the library. Yeah.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:46:42 What about you, Marti? Can you talk about some of the other stuff that you do?

Marti Anamosa: 00:46:45 Well, I've worked on some political campaigns. For a long time, I was a tutor in the middle school, which was great. I always tutored language arts and history mostly. They gave me a math class one day. Well, the kids didn't have a textbook and I always figured I could read five pages ahead in a math textbook I could do it. I mean, math doesn't change that much.

Ken Harvey: 00:47:13 That's what you thought.

Marti Anamosa: 00:47:15 It was hopeless, it was hopeless. After tutoring one of the classes, one of the teachers asked, she knew that I speak French and she asked if I could come, they had an introduction to languages class, a survey of languages class where kids learned a little bit about French, German and Spanish. She asked me to come in and teach the French part of it, which was great fun. I had never taught before at all. This was a lot of fun. So I taught French for three semesters.

Terry Lippincott: 00:47:45 I'll bet you were very good at it.

Marti Anamosa: 00:47:49 It was volunteer.

Paul Pitkin: 00:47:51 I just was going to say this is like, for anybody who wants to know like, if you do pursue a lifetime of learning, this is what can happen. You guys are like very, very impressive. And Marti, my entire family spoke French, drove me absolutely crazy.

Marti Anamosa: 00:48:08 Oh really?

Paul Pitkin: 00:48:09 Yeah. They would like to show off their French around me all the time and I grew to kind of despise the language because of my family experience.

Marti Anamosa: 00:48:20 That's right.

Ken Harvey: 00:48:22 Well, I'm going to take us in a little bit different direction, building on the word impressive. So Marti, I understand that you're also an impressive dancer.

Marti Anamosa: 00:48:29 Oh, me? I love to dance. It's funny, my husband is an absolutely wonderful person. And on the checklist that you have when you're looking for a suitable mate, the only characteristic he didn't have was loves to dance. But he did have the one knows how to fix things which I didn't even know about until I met him. And I added it and so he's perfect for me. I don't dance much anymore because I don't have a dance partner.

Terry Lippincott: 00:49:00 What kind of dancing did you enjoy?

Marti Anamosa: 00:49:02 Oh, country, western, ballroom. I lived in Houston for a long time and I was working at a law firm where there were a whole bunch of relatively young on attached attorneys roughly my age. So Friday nights, hey, we'd go to one of the country western bars and there were a lot of country western bars in Houston at the time. And just spend the night dancing and drinking beer.

Ken Harvey: 00:49:30 So is it true you also have another country connection or a country music connection?

Marti Anamosa: 00:49:35 My daughter's in a country western band and plays at just some of the down and dirty dives in Seattle. We travel over to Seattle fairly regularly.

Ken Harvey: 00:49:50 What's the name of the band?

Marti Anamosa: 00:49:52 Wayside.

Ken Harvey: 00:49:52 Wayside.

Marti Anamosa: 00:49:53 Yeah. And then she also has a bluegrass band that she plays in called St. September.

Terry Lippincott: 00:49:59 Oh, what a great name.

Ken Harvey: 00:49:59 I love bluegrass music.

Marti Anamosa: 00:50:02 Our son has also played in bands since he was about 13. And he's not in one right now but he has a band that a good friend of Paul's also plays in. Because one of the people in the band has moved away, once a year, they have a reunion concert that's like packed. I always front end Paul there. Also at a dive bar in Seattle.

Ken Harvey: 00:50:34 Is it good music, Paul?

Paul Pitkin: 00:50:35 Oh, it's fantastic. The first time I ever ran into Marti was, I just started at Sno-Isle and I think I'd met Marti a couple times.

Ken Harvey: 00:50:44 So you literally bumped into her spilled her drink, right?

Paul Pitkin: 00:50:48 Well, I spotted her and I was like okay, I'm in my civvies. Should I go say hi? And I said, I'm going to say hi. And so I saw her. She

had her earplugs in and she popped them out and we had a discussion. It was great.

Marti Anamosa: 00:51:03 It was funny because, you run into somebody that you've just met once or twice and they're in the wrong place. It wasn't at Sno-Isle so it took me a moment.

Terry Lippincott: 00:51:13 Oh, that's hilarious.

Paul Pitkin: 00:51:15 Yeah. I was there with my derelict friends.

Marti Anamosa: 00:51:19 I was there with my derelict family members.

Terry Lippincott: 00:51:22 Looking sketchy in a dive bar. That's awesome.

Ken Harvey: 00:51:24 What's the name of this band that's the once a year?

Marti Anamosa: 00:51:27 Northtwin.

Ken Harvey: 00:51:30 So good music though.

Marti Anamosa: 00:51:32 Terrific music.

Paul Pitkin: 00:51:33 Fantastic.

Marti Anamosa: 00:51:33 Terrific music.

Ken Harvey: 00:51:35 I wanted to ask you, maybe this, I wanted to put this quote out and have you both respond to this quote. It's a quote by a poet named Rita Dove and it reads, "My childhood library was small enough not to be intimidating. And yet, I felt the whole world was contained in those two rooms. I could walk any aisle and smell wisdom."

Marti Anamosa: 00:52:02 I read this and I thought nothing has changed. This is what libraries still are. Libraries are so much bigger than two rooms and shelves of books now, but there's so much wisdom contained in libraries. It's all there. All the wisdom of the world is contained in libraries these days and with people to show you how to find that wisdom. And so I read this and I thought, yes, this is what it's all about.

Terry Lippincott: 00:52:33 When I read this art, Everett Library to me as a small child was I thought huge. And there's a beautiful mural in there. I think it was a public works project. I remember being so impressed by it. It wasn't until I reached the children section that I sort of felt that safe haven feeling of belonging. And we talk a lot now

about people finding their tribe and finding their people and what I really appreciate about libraries, especially in our teens and our kids is that's where they find their people. That's where they can go in and you'll see teen groups playing games or whatever it is that they're doing, nerding out on Comic Con or whatever and they feel safe and they feel protected. That's what a library does is it sort of envelops you with that safety-ness of you belong here and here you will find like minded people.

- Terry Lippincott: 00:53:20 So I love that quote. For me, the children's librarian at the Everett Library I thought ran the world. I was pretty convinced that she was in charge of the entire universe because she knew all the books I'd read. She knew how many late fees I had. I thought she was incredibly powerful. And in fact, I came home to visit from college when I was up at Western weekend and I was walking down on Hewitt and I saw her and I actually crossed the street to avoid her because I thought I still had fines. I was so sure that she would remember me.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:53:59 So, not only did I think of the library as a place of wisdom and a powerful place but I also thought the people around the world lived there when I was a kid.
- Ken Harvey: 00:54:08 Wow.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:54:09 If only.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:54:10 Yes. Be a much better place, wouldn't it?
- Marti Anamosa: 00:54:13 It would.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:54:14 We should just mention that, you know, if you go into a Sno-Isle library, we promise you won't be frightened by the librarian.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:54:19 True, absolutely true.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:54:21 And you won't have to pay fines.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:54:22 Yeah, that's right. Which is a lovely, lovely concept that that's not going to keep you out.
- Ken Harvey: 00:54:28 In our final moment or two, what would you love to leave the audience with just in terms of your own sense of the value of libraries, the impact of the work that is made possible through property owners who prepay for library services through their

library levy or donors who can take some money or something of value and donate it to the cause of libraries?

- Terry Lippincott: 00:55:03 I think what I love about the library system, Sno-Isle, I'm sure other library systems are the same but I'm privy to Sno-Isle's decision making and the planning. Nothing is done without an incredible amount of thought and research and surveys. The ripple effect of what we do, I'm thinking of the third grade reading challenge for example, and I look out at that audience and I see those third graders up on the stage. They're all having a ball. We know because we survey them after they leave third grade, we know they're joining book clubs, we know they're going on to Knowledge Bowl in high school. But I'm also watching the families out in the audience and I'm watching those parents so incredibly proud of their kids. But I'm especially watching the younger siblings who are looking at those older brothers and sisters like they're rock stars.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:55:51 So I know the ripple effect of that single program resonates out into the family and into the community. I'm thinking of issues that matter for example, as Marti said, people coming in tears and just feeling like they've been heard. That's sort of a good old solid town hall kind of a vibe. So the things that Sno-Isle does, when you decide to donate, know that you're going to get a lot of bang for your buck. You might not know exactly where your money's going to go because some of these programs haven't even been invented yet. We didn't have issues that matter several years ago. Sno-Isle saw a need, brought it into the community and now it's something that we couldn't imagine not having.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:56:31 So, your money's going to be well used, it's going to affect a lot of people. And let's say you don't yourself use the library. I can guarantee though, that as someone who lives in a neighborhood who lives in a town, you're going to benefit because would you rather have those teens out on the road or would you rather have them at the library playing a game after school? You're going to want them in the library, they're going to become better citizens. Those kids that are ready for kindergarten are going to become better citizens because of the library.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:56:58 So, you may not go yourself, but believe me, your tax dollars are benefiting you.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:57:02 I feel like the library system has such a panoply of things to offer the community. I totally agree with what Terry has said. But, for those people who don't have third graders or something, I was

talking to my then probably about sixth grade grandson one day recently and said, well, you know, I read mostly for entertainment. There's a heck of a lot of us who read for entertainment. If you want books, if you want DVDs, if you want services helping use your gadgets, how to find information on any topic, these forums. I don't understand how an individual could not want to take advantage of one of these wonderful services that we have. They're free but you've already paid for it. You don't have to pay as you walk in the door.

- Marti Anamosa: 00:58:01 There's just so much on offer that it's not like we're targeting all of our services to a certain group of people. We're targeting our services to the community as a whole and there's so much available that I just hope everyone will take advantage of what we have.
- Ken Harvey: 00:58:22 You've been listening to an interview with Marti Anamosa, the President of the Sno-Isle libraries Board of Trustees and Terry Lippincott, president of the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. Along with my host, Paul Pitkin, thank you all for being part of this.
- Marti Anamosa: 00:58:36 Thank you. Thanks for the opportunity.
- Terry Lippincott: 00:58:38 It's a pleasure to be here.
- Paul Pitkin: 00:58:39 Thank you so much. What a great discussion.
- Speaker 2: 00:58:41 The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.
- Ken Harvey: 00:58:49 Our special thanks goes to our legacy sponsors Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. Your private tax deductible gift to the Sno-Isle Libraries foundation provides seed money to expand and foster extra early learning and lifetime learning opportunities through innovative library classes, activities and civic engagement events. Type Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation into your internet search engine to find out more about how your donation can change the lives of preschoolers, third graders, teens and lifelong learners like you or someone you care about. If you enjoy this podcast, we'd love you to subscribe so you can receive episodes automatically.
- Ken Harvey: 00:59:28 Also, please consider leaving a rating and a short review on iTunes and Google Play. Your rating and review will make it easier for others to find us. We love hearing from our listeners and subscribers. So drop us a line at checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org. That way you can let us know you left a rating or review

and you can also send us questions and comments especially if you enjoyed or were fascinated by one of our guests. Or maybe you might suggest someone you'd like us to interview. Don't be surprised if we read your comment or answer your question on a future podcast episode. If you have a great library experience you'd like to share, we'd love to hear it. We might even invite you on the show one day to have an on air conversation.

Ken Harvey: 01:00:17 By the way, emailers will automatically be entered into drawings for library swag and other potential prizes. Prizes like what you might ask. Well, we may have promotional giveaways from sponsors, so, we'll be offering books autographed by authors and event posters with a performer autograph. There may be free theater or performance tickets from time to time. Keep in mind these are prizes provided by our sponsors. No actual public dollars were killed or harmed or used in the making of these prizes. Be sure to visit us at sno-isle.org/podcast for the show notes and the links discussed in this episode. You may discover some other fantastic bonus content in the process.

Ken Harvey: 01:01:02 And finally, we always invite you to stop by your closest library or visit the library online to find thousands and thousands of titles of books, music, movies and resources from our friendly, helpful, professional librarians just waiting for you check it out today. Thanks for listening.