

Citizens' Utility Board

610 SW Broadway, Suite 308 Portland, OR 97205 T (503) 227-1984 F (503) 274-2956

of Oregon

[about CUB](#) | [consumer tips](#) | [accomplishments](#) | [membership](#) | [current news](#) | [faq](#) | [links](#)

Keep up with CUB!
sign up for e-news

e-mail

go

CUB Twitters from the Capitol

- Today was President's Day, a holiday. Couldn't tell by all the activity at the Capitol. [1 day ago](#)
- The best were about 20 high school students. There are future elected officials in that bunch. Very sharp. [7 days ago](#)
- Great climate lobby day today in Salem. Lots of activists pushing legislators to act. [7 days ago](#)

[follow us on Twitter](#)

What have we done for YOU lately? Since 1984, CUB has saved Oregon ratepayers more than \$3.4 billion dollars.

[>> read more](#)

February 14, 2009 CUB Mourns the Loss of Our Voice

by *Bob Jenks, CUB Executive Director*

Shannon Floyd, CUB's Business and Special Projects manager passed away this past week. Among her work at CUB, Shannon was the founder of this on-line newsletter (our blog) and has been the writer behind it since its inception.



When Shannon first approached me and proposed that CUB start a weekly blog as a communications tool, I was skeptical. It seemed like a great deal of work for a product that few people would notice.

I was wrong. Shannon was right. From Day One we have gotten a great deal of positive feedback on the blog. People have repeatedly told me how amazed they have been at the ability of CUB to take wonkish energy issues and explain them in understandable terms. What folks did not know was that this was due to a single person here: Shannon. Not only did she take our wonkish policy issues and explain them to people, she did so in a personal manner with a sense of humor. She provided a voice for CUB's blog. And we have gotten more positive feedback about that voice than anything we have created in the last 15 years.

We will continue the blog, but I worry that without Shannon's voice, it will not be the same. CUB will continue to do important policy work, but our ability to communicate it in an appealing way has been diminished. If we get too wonkish, or too boring, please have patience. What she did was not easy.

Shannon was an amazing woman. She was more than our Business Manager. She was our friend. She was 39, a great mother and a

DONATE NOW
SECURE DONATIONS
BY GROUNDSPRING.org

take action

Sign up to help CUB in the Legislature! Get special updates and action alerts!

[>> Click here to join the CUB Action Network](#)

consumer tips

Tired of telemarketing calls? Maybe it's time to put your number on the national Do Not Call list.



[>> more information](#)

multimedia

These audio files are samples of former CUB business manager Shannon Floyd demonstrating her vocal ability. It's not every administrator that has this range of talents.

[Click here for the audio file of Motherless Child.](#)
(Right-click to save the file to your computer before listening)

[Click here for the audio file of an operatic performance.](#)
(Right-click to save the file to your computer before listening)

trained opera singer (this was a surprise to many of us...listen to a sample of her work at the links in the right-hand column. She had a truly beautiful voice.) It was about a year ago that she found out she had breast cancer and less than 2 months since she found out the cancer had spread. She was well-loved here at CUB and over the last few weeks, as friends have come out of the woodwork to offer her support, we have found that she was well-loved by many, many people.

At CUB she had a central role. I was dependent on her for everything from payroll and bookkeeping to editing my writing. And she was the best editor I ever found. She would pull out her red pen and mark up the document. And she would mark it up a lot. I mean a lot. But when she was done, there would be no grammatical errors left, and the wording would be changed and improved in ways that made it much more interesting. People will find that I am much less articulate now that I do not have Shannon.

Some of my fondest memories are sitting around the conference table in our office eating lunch. At those times we talked about raising children, food, literature, music, politics, traveling and countless other subjects. We watched clips of the Daily Show and laughed. For most of her time at CUB, Shannon was the only one who could reset the time on our clock without standing on a chair. She was a tall woman in a largely height-challenged office.



Shannon was also a very good friend of my wife, Jill. They met regularly for lunch, sang karaoke, went to movies and every year they got together to watch the Academy Awards. Her 6 year-old daughter Hana is a friend of my 7 year-old daughter Macy. This is a personal loss and a loss for my entire family.

This 10-minute video, produced by Eric Stachon of Sky High Creative, gives a look at CUB's history, why Oregon needed CUB to begin with, and goes on to talk to some of our current allies and key players in the world of utility regulation today.

>> [click here for the video](#)
(Right-click to save the video to your desktop before viewing)

Search this weblog

Search



Shannon was one of the nicest people I have known. Everyone who met Shannon liked her. Even at the most stressful times, Shannon was calm and caring. Jason Eisdorfer, our former staff attorney went to visit her on Monday, a few hours before she passed away. She was very concerned that Jason makes sure that he is helping and giving support to our new staff attorney, Catriona McCracken. That was Shannon. Even at that point, she was worrying about others and trying to organize support for someone else.

This is a hard time for many of us. Shannon was too young, too nice and too important to us for this to have happened. Her daughter had an amazing mother and deserved to grow up with Shannon in her life. But life is not fair. We all know that intellectually and today we feel that in our gut.

But we will remember her. Every time we send out a blog, we will remember her as the founder of the blog. Every time I write testimony, I will remember her ability to transform my writing. Every year when the Academy Awards are on, we will remember how she loved the movies and loved the spectacle that is the Academy Awards. Every Fall and Spring when we have to reset our clocks we will remember her doing so without standing on a chair. And every time we invite her daughter over for a play date we will be reminded of how much they look alike.

Ultimately, we will remember Shannon, not for the loss we feel today, but for the love that she gave us.



Posted by Oregon CUB at [12:50 AM](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

October 02, 2008

Farewell, Jason and Lowrey



CUB has had an extremely lucky run with quality of staff and longevity of staff commitment to our organization and mission. The last time we hired for a new position was almost 5 years ago, and the last time we had to replace a paid staff member was almost 8 years ago. That is all about to change, as two members of our staff have recently moved on. We gathered one week ago tonight with about 50 members of Oregon's energy community at a farewell party to celebrate the achievements of Jason Eisdorfer and Lowrey Brown.

Jason was CUB's second paid staff member, brought on board by Executive Director Bob Jenks way back in 1994. Jason was somewhat young and inexperienced at that time (which is the only reason we were able to hire him on at the salary we were offering), and faced not only a steep learning curve in utility issues, but also had to carve out some credibility for CUB, at the time a struggling organization itself. Less than

5 years after joining CUB, Jason was able to lead the negotiation and writing process leading up to the passage of the Oregon Electricity Restructuring Act of 1999, which created the Energy Trust, and gave customers of PGE and Pacific Power access to renewable electricity through Portfolio Options inserts in their bills.

In succeeding years, Jason was Staff Attorney and Energy Program Director during cases such as TPG's attempted takeover of PGE (we led the ultimately successful forces in opposition), the Oregon Utility Tax Reform Law (ensuring that customers don't pay to utilities any tax the utility will not be paying to government), and the passage of the Renewable Energy Standard in 2007 (requiring that 25% of Oregon's electricity come from new renewable sources by the year 2025). In addition, he filed Briefs in every major rate case in Oregon during those 14 years, helping save residential utility customers upwards of \$3 billion.

Jason also participated in larger regional discussions by serving on the boards of Renewable Northwest Project, the Energy Trust of Oregon, and the Northwest Energy Coalition. Most recently, he has been a member of the group in Oregon working on Western Climate Initiative goals to address climate change, and so it was perhaps a logical step that he is moving over to Bonneville Power Administration to be their Climate Policy Director. Perhaps most importantly, he gave his judgment ("No, Bob, you can't say that!"), knowledge, and humor to Bob and the rest of us here at CUB as our small organization and its influence expanded.

Lowrey literally created the position of Utility Analyst here at CUB, and in doing so she made a huge difference in the amount and quality of work that CUB produced over the last 5 years. Every rate case in which we intervened was built on a foundation of her analysis of the numbers, every document we filed with the Public Utility Commission benefited from her strong writing skills, and CUB was able to extend our reach more effectively into more cases and more areas because of Lowrey's gift for organizing staff time, needed information, and our small office space.

The TPG case was one in which Lowrey made a huge impact with her analysis and writing, and Lowrey essentially provided the framework for crucial PUC decisions regarding utility power cost adjustment mechanisms, details that most utility customers will never read about, but which will make a significant impact on their bills in the long term. A party attendee toasted Lowrey as one of the smartest and hardest working people they had ever met, and we whole-heartedly agree. She is also intensely curious, which makes for fun conversation twists and turns, and deeply caring, a quality she brings to both relationships and to her work.

A board member recently described our small staff atmosphere as "familial," and this is true. It was not unusual for lunches to take place communally around the office conference table, talking about kids, gardens, and politics. We tried not to let a week go by without teasing Jason about his hypochondria (largely based on a single instance 10 years ago), and Lowrey about her lack of pop culture exposure (though she did come up with a Laurel and Hardy reference at the farewell party). They took it all in good stride and gave it back in full measure.

Both of these people are utterly irreplaceable. Which makes our current task of replacing them difficult, to say the least. Interviews are going well, and we are confident that we will bring on smart people (perhaps very soon!) who will do good work in the Staff Attorney and Utility Analyst positions at CUB. But there is only one Lowrey and only one Jason, and we miss you both very much. Thanks for your years of

serving utility consumers here at CUB.

Posted by Oregon CUB at [03:34 PM](#) | [Comments \(2\)](#)

May 29, 2008

Welcome Back, Jeff!

We'd like to take a break from our normal utility consumer advocacy services to bring you this message: Welcome Back, Jeff!

Some of you will no doubt have seen the lawn signs, ads, or had Jeff Bissonnette come knocking on your door to say hi, tell you why he was running for Portland City Commissioner (Sam Adams's vacated seat), and ask you what were your concerns regarding city government. Jeff had taken a leave of absence for the past few months, but before that you may remember he has been CUB's long-time Organizing Director and Man On The Scene in the Oregon Legislature.

Because of very practical and valid laws governing the use of non-profit organizations' money and voices, we have not mentioned Jeff's campaign before. But now the vote is over, and Jeff came in a close third behind Charles Lewis who was behind Amanda Fritz as the frontrunner. Those two will face each other in a runoff in November, while we will happily welcome Jeff back to his place at CUB.

We would like to congratulate Jeff and his staff and supporters on a well-run campaign, and thank him for being a voice for clean energy solutions in the candidate discussions. We hope that the two remaining candidates will follow Jeff's lead in making those clean and affordable energy discussions high-profile issues and maintaining Portland's reputation as one of the most sustainable cities in the nation. It's not just a feather in our collective municipal cap, it's a web of green energy jobs and market solutions that will prove invaluable as we deal with high gas prices, higher food prices, and increasing signs of global warming.

We know that Jeff enjoyed the many conversations he had on the campaign trail, and we expect that those conversations about energy, the economy, and the environment will serve him well as he continues to be a primary advocate in Oregon for fair and clean energy solutions.

So kudos to Jeff, welcome back, and Bob says, get back to work! Because, honestly, we missed you and we're gonna need you in '09.

Posted by Oregon CUB at [02:30 PM](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

February 12, 2008

Meet CUB's Shaich Interns

For many years, now, CUB has been benefiting from the life and legacy of one of its earliest supporters. Way back in 1983, OSPIRG recruited a group of college students to work on gathering signatures to put on the statewide ballot the creation of an organization that would fight for consumer rights on utility issues. Three of the young people who answered the call were Jeff Bissonnette, U of O freshman in political science, Kevin Masterson, junior in economics, and Eric Shaich, junior in economics.

Jeff went on to a career in community organizing around the country, returning to Oregon in 1998 to become CUB's Organizing Director.

Kevin went on to work at Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality, and served 2 terms on CUB's Board of Governors, including one term as Board Chair. Eric, an honors college graduate, interned at EcoNorthwest and then accepted a job at Bonneville Power Administration. All three, as well as others who worked on the original CUB campaign, continued to be active in politics and energy issues.

In 1991, at the age of 27, Eric Shaich died of Hodgkin's disease. He is remembered as a person with an unusual combination of determination, idealism, intellectual accomplishment, and easygoing humility. Soon after Eric's death, his parents, Harry and Gloria Shaich, approached Bob Jenks of CUB about setting up an endowment out of the proceeds of Eric's estate to work on some of the things he cared most about: energy, environmental advocacy, and education.

A fundraiser in 1993 that featured consumer advocate and Oregon State Representative Bev Stein helped grow the endowment and get the word out about the creation of this program. An advisory board of family and friends helped get the trust set up, transferred to CUB, and on its way.

Since the mid-1990s the Eric Shaich Memorial Fund Internship Program has funded an impressive series of interns, students who handled various projects for the CUB staff on their own way to a career in energy policy, or non-profit management, or some other related field. Today, we want to share a few of the stories of our Shaich interns with you.

Jed Jorgensen, Shaich Intern 1999. Jed currently works as the Marketing and Communications Manager of the **Climate Trust**. The Climate Trust funds projects that reduce, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide emissions. During his time as an intern at CUB, Jed compiled research on Energy Star (certified energy efficient) products and submitted op-ed pieces to newspapers around the state encouraging consumers to increase the efficiency of their household appliances. In addition, Jed collected signatures in support of Measure 90 (which sought to prevent PGE from collecting profits from ratepayers on its failed Trojan Nuclear Power Plant) for the 2000 election.

Walidah Imarisha, Shaich Intern 2001. Walidah has recently returned to Portland after spending several years in Philadelphia working on a wide variety of social justice issues. She produced a documentary about the after-effects of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and is a poet. Catch her spoken word performances if you can!

Linda Tomassi, Shaich Intern 2002. Linda worked to help defend the Energy Trust of Oregon from attacks during its early years, creating fact sheets and speaking to neighborhood groups. Linda currently works as the Administrative Director of **Oregon Women Lawyers**, and is serving her first term on the CUB Board of Governors, where she brings fierce enthusiasm and formidable organizational skills.

Melanie Leaf Bissonnette, Shaich Intern 2003. Melanie worked on scheduling forums for low-income energy efficiency issues, and updating organizational information for the Fair and Clean Energy Coalition. Melanie currently works as the Web Coordinator for the **Energy Trust of Oregon**, and is a licensed Massage Therapist. She and Jeff were married in Fall of 2006 at the Malheur Field Station with close friends and family in attendance.

Ken Snider, Shaich Intern 2004-2005. Ken brought his experience with Community Media and his studies at the Non-Profit Management Center of PSU to CUB. He helped revamp our website and improved our grant-

writing capabilities. Ken is now working with the **Metro Hazardous Waste Recycling Program** and volunteering with the Sierra Club trying to protect Oregon's high desert areas.

Phillip Kelsven, Shaich Intern 2006. Phillip is currently Evaluation Analyst with the Energy Trust of Oregon, and founder of **The Future of Energy Group** for young energy professionals focused on moving our energy economy in a greener direction. Phillip received an Applied Energy Economics Certificate from PSU, on his way to a Master's degree in Economics, and did loads of research for us on the utility tax reform issue, as well as utility mergers then in process.

Alice Bray, Shaich Intern 2006. Alice is currently working freelance with the **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** on solar power development issues. Alice received her J.D. from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College. Alice wrote a white paper on the issue of Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Coal plants, researched telecommunications privacy issues, and helped set up a well-received Symposium on Energy, the Environment, and the Law at Lewis & Clark. (This symposium led to CUB's staff attorney teaching a full course at the law school this past fall focused on Energy Law.)

Thomas Balcom, Shaich Intern 2007. Thomas is currently finishing up his Bachelor's Degree at Willamette University (also the alma mater for Bob Jenks). Thomas was a researcher and assistant extraordinaire to Jeff Bissonnette during the Oregon Legislative Session of 2007, an incredible asset during a busy time.

Jessica Aiona, Shaich Intern 2007-2008. Jessica recently graduated from Bowdoin College with a degree in Economics and Environmental Policy. At CUB, Jessica has researched telecommunications and energy issues, and she presented her ongoing work of "signature stories" of how clean energy projects benefit both the environment and the economy to the **Oregon Apollo Alliance** in January.

We gathered five of our interns together over pizza last week to catch up. Jessica, Alice, Ken, Jed, and Linda were able to join with Bob Jenks, Jeff Bissonnette, and Shannon Floyd on CUB staff. We had a good time and found out that the internship program got excellent feedback from participants. Many of the interns did not know about each other, and so we spent some time reminiscing about how connections were made (we haven't advertised for interns - all of them have come to us through word of mouth), and what skills were learned, whether setting up vendor relationships, researching technical issues, or organizing community events. Every internship has been totally different, based upon the skills and interest of the intern. Connections within the energy policy and non-profit community were one of the most valuable things most of our interns said they gained.

It's often been said that the energy and utility field is kind of dry and technical. CUB strives to break that mold by representing the people served by utilities, and CUB's interns bring fresh energy and ideas to our work. They are a vital part of our work and we thank all of them, and we appreciate the legacy of Eric Shaich which makes this internship possible.

Posted by Oregon CUB at [03:55 PM](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

December 21, 2007

CUB Wishes You and Yours a Happy Holiday Season

Today is the eve of the 2007 Winter Solstice, the center point of our season of cold, dark and (here in the Northwest) wet. It is a good time to reflect on the central purpose of our work through the Citizens' Utility Board, which is keeping necessary utility services -- including heat, light, and communications technology-- affordable and sustainable.

As 2008 approaches, we here at CUB hope that you and your family have plenty of the light, the warmth, and the connection with family and friends that we all need during the cold winter months. We also hope that the New Year brings us more opportunities to work with you in achieving the goals we share for fair and clean energy, and affordable (and privacy-protected) telecommunications.

A very happy holiday season from all of us here at CUB to all of you.

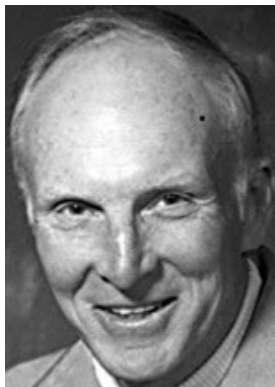
Bob, Jason, Jeff, Karen, Shannon & Lowrey

Posted by Oregon CUB at [10:59 AM](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

September 20, 2007

John Glascock

It seems that only recently we were writing of the death of our friend and supporter, Doug Still. Another CUB Board member of large stature and great accomplishment passed away this week, and that was John Glascock ([obituary here](#)).



John came on the CUB scene after his retirement following a successful career in business and the insurance industry. He became involved with the AARP and brought that organization on board with the lobbying efforts of CUB and the Fair and Clean Energy Coalition around SB 1149, the Oregon Electricity Restructuring Act of 1999. John was at the Capitol every day talking to legislators and decision makers about the bill. When asked by a Committee member why he was there representing AARP, since renewable energy and energy efficiency were not AARP issues, John looked up and tactfully explained that they *were* AARP issues and they affected all of us. John saw the connections and made energy issues a priority for himself and his community.

After CUB won a lawsuit saying that PGE could not charge customers a profit on the closed Trojan nuclear plant, PGE went to the legislature and got the legislature to retroactively change the law so that utilities could earn profits on plants that were no longer operating. CUB successfully led a referendum campaign to overturn this law. But

referendum campaigns are not easy - you have just a few weeks to collect thousands of signatures. John stood outside of the Salem Post Office for many, many hours collecting signatures. When the deadline to turn in signatures came, John was one of only 2 community volunteers to have personally gathered over 1,000 signatures.

CUB Staff Attorney Jason Eisdorfer, who worked with John throughout the SB 1149 process and then later also when John had joined the CUB Board of Governors, had this to say about John's work: "At CUB, it has become standard practice to inform all new participants in the public interest area of energy and telecommunications, whether they work for CUB or another organization, of John Glascock's work. Without exaggeration, we continue to relay a couple of 'John Glascock' stories to younger people new to the issues as examples of how to do it." He continued, "As a result of John's influence, energetic and enthusiastic young advocates, who have never met John, are being influenced by him to go out and do the right thing in the right way."

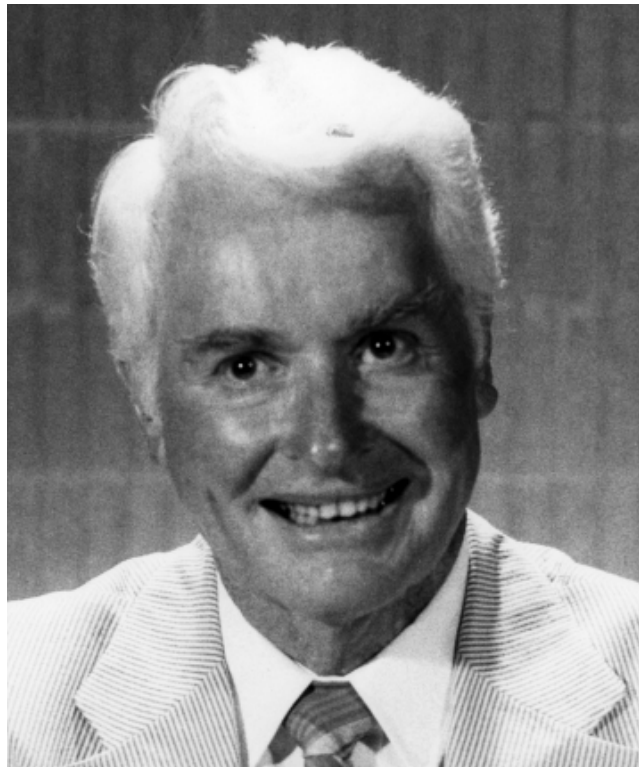
Bob Jenks's comment was simply that John provided a good example of how much good work one person could do, and John did all of what we know of him after his retirement! John did more good for the state of Oregon after his retirement than most of us do in our entire lives. We are thankful for the years that his energy was directed our way.

Posted by Oregon CUB at [01:11 PM](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

July 05, 2007

Doug Still

Today, we here at CUB wish to express our tremendous respect for Doug Still, a CUB Board member and long-time energy policy activist, until shortly before his death July 1st at the age of 83.



Doug sent us, along with several dozen other friends and allies, a letter in early June. In it, he described the downturn in multiple health conditions which he had experienced. Doug spoke about his expectation that his life would end soon, providing a chance to say goodbye.

The letter was not unhappy, however, ending with the request that friends and family "dance on my grave" and expressing gratitude: "My life has been a joy to me. I am so appreciative of the marvelous opportunities available and generously given me." Doug spoke of being blessed with a family whom he loved very much (he is survived by his sons Dean and Gregory and a daughter, Eleanor). Of special interest, perhaps, to CUB members was the final sentence of his farewell letter, in which Doug expressed "my future hope is in the people taking charge and turning this nation around..."

Doug served on the CUB board for 7 years, and on the Executive Board of the NW Energy Coalition for well over 10 years. In addition, he served in elected roles with the South Lane Mental Health Board, the Assembly of the Blue Mountain School, and with his church. He was a strong advocate for public power, helping to found and serving as an elected board member of Emerald PUD, which now serves thousands of Oregonians with low-cost, conservation-minded publicly-owned power. He also was active in the founding of the Oregon Solar Energy Association, now called Solar Oregon.

He earned a divinity degree from Union Seminary and utilized it to pursue multiple areas of social justice, keeping his faith in both humanity and divinity strong up to the very end. Living a full life, Doug created his own opportunities to contribute during decades of profound social and political change; among many other actions, he worked in community organizing with Saul Alinsky and Cesar Chavez and marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (More information about Doug's work can be found on [the Northwest Energy Coalition website](#).)

On June 13th, we spoke with Doug by phone from his Cottage Grove home where he spent his final weeks, receiving a steady stream of visitors and phone calls. His voice at first was weak but gradually strengthened and was still recognizably full of the spirit and intellect that we knew as Doug Still. He expressed happiness in the work he had done with CUB, and admiration for the teamwork of the group that exists within the organization. He said at one point that he had great faith that people could do anything, people could work miracles, as long as they worked together.

After speaking with Doug, we reminisced about the strength of character which allowed Doug to work effectively for so many years in the sometimes frustrating arena of energy policy, and never speak ill of anyone. Those of us on the phone with Doug that day came away with a stronger-than-ever respect for his life. And as a final gift, we also came away with a greater appreciation for our own opportunity to work for sustainable and affordable energy policy as a part of CUB.

Stan Padilla, descendant of a Yaqui tribal family, said this about the role and value of elders: "Within Native American culture, the elder has been recognized, respected and revered as the living embodiment of knowledge, skill and wisdom." (*Lilipoh*, Issue 47, vol. 12). Doug Still was *our* elder here at CUB, both by virtue of his years and his unique character. We celebrate his life, and feel the loss of his wisdom very keenly.

Thank you, Doug, and God speed.

Posted by Oregon CUB at 02:19 PM | [Comments \(2\)](#)

September 28, 2006

Remembering Anita Russel, 1922-2006



When I came to CUB in 1992, CUB was having a hard time. We had 1.5 full time staff. We were in debt. But we had one amazing committed volunteer who believed in the organization and came in nearly every day for the next 10 years in order to help CUB.

Her name was Anita Russel and she passed away recently. It is accurate to say that CUB probably would not be around if it were not for Anita. It is not clear how we could have handled the workload needed to rebuild the organization without her help. She did much of the work associated with our direct mail fundraising program. This allowed me to focus on CUB's program of fighting for utility consumers.

Anita became our bookkeeper, but she was always more than that.

She maintained our financial records, our membership records, stuffed envelopes and whatever else needed to be done. Eventually, as CUB grew, we felt that we should pay her for her amazing work and brought her on staff. However, Anita did not like being paid by CUB. She did not want to see the money that CUB members contributed going into her pocket. She was retired and did not need the income, so she soon returned to being a volunteer -- a volunteer who came in every day and did a professional job.

At one point when she was considering retiring (she stayed a few more years), we put together a plaque that said: "The grateful staff of Citizens' Utility Board extend this Bear Hug as a token of our appreciation of, indebtedness to, and admiration for Anita Russell. For the past eight years and more, she has given freely of her time to keep the office

doors open, its records organized and accounts accurate, added verve to office conversation and in general made the office hum like a top." True to form, Anita was moved by the tribute but uncomfortable being the center of attention. She was all about doing the work, and not looking for the praise that was her due.

Eventually, as her hearing and eyesight began to fail, she was forced to retire from CUB, but she continued to support the organization and continued to donate money to us every single month. She contributed to us financially for more than 18 years and worked as a volunteer with us for more than a decade. Few, if anyone, have contributed more to CUB than Anita.

I will miss Anita. I can picture the way her face would light up when I would bring in baby pictures of my daughter. Her family was important to her, and she cared about our families. Our hearts go out to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bob Jenks
CUB Executive Director

Of the 6 staff who make up CUB today, I am one of only 2 people who did not know and work with Anita Russel. I met her at the 20th Anniversary dinner in 2004, a reserved and dignified woman seeming to be in her 70s, but we only exchanged a few words. And yet, I still feel a connection to Anita. You see, I took over her desk and much of the work she did here (as a volunteer!) at CUB.

When I was hired in August of 2003 to manage the business end of CUB, we had been without a bookkeeper since Anita had finally "retired" (her second retirement) many months before. Bob Jenks, our fearless leader, has knowledge of the utility industry both broad and deep, and does amazing work in many different venues, but organization of paperwork isn't one of them. I began the slow process of digging backward through boxes of bills, taxes, and miscellaneous jumble until I got to the place Anita left off. What a difference!

I gradually came to know Anita through her small neat rows of figures, the thousands of handwritten checks, the spreadsheets she created to track our finances, and the mark of her hand is seen on folders that I still use regularly. She fulfilled an important role rarely seen by the public; she was the administrative mechanic who kept things on track, kept the wheels turning, so that CUB could remain a spokesperson and advocate for all residential Oregon utility ratepayers. With her help CUB survived some tumultuous and lean early years.

I don't know what it was about CUB, out of all the good causes in the world, that drew Anita. But she chose CUB, and stayed with a loyalty that kept her here many years, giving of her time generously and skillfully. I didn't know the woman, but I know and appreciate the legacy of her work here at CUB.

Shannon Floyd
CUB Business & Projects Manager

In 1966, Anita took her barely-teenaged daughters on the train to

Seattle to see the Beatles. I suppose other parents must have done this with their children, but the way she quickly embraced their music must surely have been unusual. (Forty years later, the Beatles were still her favorite.) She took her children to see lots of music: they saw The Who open for Herman's Hermits; they saw Janis Joplin in San Francisco as a second choice, after the Monterey Jazz Festival they had gone to see was cancelled. They saw the Lovin' Spoonful and Donovan ... and they went to at least one peace march together.

Those of us who worked with her at CUB never suspected that Anita had quite such a colorful past, because she was always so modest and unassuming. But these details of her life are perfectly consistent with the Anita we knew. Take, for example, the picture of her with her husband Roy from what appears to be the early 1950s: him charging down the street with his flattop haircut and a big cigar in his hand, and there's Anita beside him, hand hooked on his arm, laughing to beat the band. They look great together, happy and in love. Then come the years of photos of her with her children as they grow up, and then her children's children -- and in every one of them, Anita has the same bright eyes we knew, the sparkling eyes that always wanted to learn.

None of this, of course, did I know in March of 1998, when I met her for the first time. I was hired to write fundraising letters for CUB, to try to grow the membership. Anita was the woman who handled the money, the woman with the Depression-era attitude about spending money: a penny saved is a penny earned, and all that. Her job was to be frugal, and mine was to spend money on envelopes and printing with the hope that CUB would get it all back, along with a few more members. In her eyes, I was gambling with money that wasn't my own; fortunately, CUB won more than it lost, and when she called me "Mr. Moneybags," she meant it fondly.

CUB was the job she took after retiring from the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a federal contracting officer. She used to say she worked at CUB because it "kept her out of the taverns," which was funny, but funnier if you knew her. Taverns! As if. A liberal always, she was one of CUB's first members, and she was always passionate about its work. CUB was fiscally shaky when she started working there, and when she left 10 years later, it had become strong and robust. And though she would have pooh-poohed the idea, she was part of the reason for its survival. She was an ace of a money manager, methodical and canny.

She read voraciously, continuously. In fact, that's how we connected. I loved literature, and so did she; we'd talk about books we'd both read, and we loaned books to each other many times. She even kept up with the online literary journal I started, which really flattered me -- knowing she had trouble with her eyesight and thinking I was a special exception -- until I found out she was surfing the Net right up until the very end of her life. See what I mean about her love of learning?

I left CUB in 2000. Anita stayed several more years before retiring herself. She was important to CUB -- and to me. I'm going to miss her. We all will.

Benjamin Chambers
CUB Development Director 1998-2000

Posted by Oregon CUB at [09:57 AM](#) | [Comments \(3\)](#)