



The Next Fifty Buzz Facebook Fan Drive Entries

May 21 – June 20, 2010

Leslie Chui- Sports, Music, and friends

"I started going to Seattle Center as a youngster of about 6. I love Amusement parks; the rides, the games, and the food. Everyone there are laughing and having a great time. The energy around is so infectious that it's hard not to enjoy oneself.

Then I came to discover that Seattle Center was so much more. I then started to attend the concerts. My first concert was Debbie Gibson, now known as Deborah Gibson. And many more followed after her lovely concert. Last one to date was Tim Mcgraw on May 21, 2010.

Soon after the concerts, I developed a love for our basketball teams: The Sonics (no longer in Seattle, boohoo) and The Storms. Laurel Jackson is my favorite player. The Rat City Rollergirls are starting to grow on me, too. They bring back old memories of the 70's and 80's of Happy Days' Pinky and Leather Tuscadero, and Laverne and Shirley.

I developed many friends attending these events. Building good friendships with people of like interests. The sports fans are the best though.

I hope that I will be attending another fifty more years of events to come."

Beth Hughes- Seattle Center - Best Back Yard Ever!

As a kid growing up in Seattle, the Seattle Center became one grand back yard of sorts. When I was in elementary school I was a crossing guard. Every year AAA (I think!) sponsored all crossing guards to a day of fun at the Seattle Center. It was a highlight of my year!!! From that experience, when I was old enough to go on my own with my 2 younger sisters, we went a couple times a month after visiting our grandmother who lived nearby. I can remember doing easter egg hunts there several times and always being amazed by the sights and sounds of the Center grounds. I really loved the flags in the Flag Plaza Pavillion, riding the Bubblelator (now a giant terrarium in someones yard in W. Seattle now from what I last read), and of course the rides and the arcade. There was ALWAYS something fun to do at the Seattle Center, and still is today.

As an adult in my early 20's it was my greatest joy when I got a job working at the Space Needle!!! I worked there for about 18 months at which time there was a transition of ownership. I enjoyed EVERY day I worked there and treasure my memories of those days as an employee of one Seattle's tourist treasures.

Now when I visit the Seattle Center I can't help but recall the fun times I had there as a youngster and I look forward to visiting often to take it in and reflect on my fun times there.

I can't WAIT to help the Seattle Center usher in their 50th anniversary!!!!

Danielle Clark-Why I am a fan

The Seattle Center is the heart of the city and provides a pulse for our family when we need recreation, stimulation and motivation. We are members of the Science Center and Children's Museum and visit the grounds regularly with our son. It is fun to imagine what the Center will be like 50 years from 2012, and consider the role the Center will have played in our son's life.

Crystal Hayes- Seattle Center is The Center of the Universe

People sometimes say that Fremont is the center of the Universe, but they are wrong. The Seattle Center is the center of the Universe! Why? Because the Center has everything! Sports and concert venues, an awesome Needle with a fantastic restaurant, great science, hobby, and cultural events, the ugliest building in the world (E.M.P.), and even holiday fireworks. I love the Seattle Center so much that I even got married there-- right in the Space Needle. I think it is time to rename the Seattle Center to "The Center of the Universe".

Gretchen Littell- Seafair

The Seattle Center has been a huge part of my family's yearly celebration of Seafair. About 20 of us go to the Center the day of the Torchlight parade around noon and set up our chairs for the parade. We then venture over to the International Fountain and spend the afternoon playing in the water. We have so many memories of the center it's hard to imagine it not being around for another 50 years.

June Miller- Smile - Candid Camera Has Arrived

As Miss Alaska of 1960, I took the job as hostess in the Alaska Exhibit at the Seattle World's Fair. Who would have imagined - my picture with Billy Graham with a moose between us - in the personal space of the Alaska Exhibit, a sign: "Smile, you may be on Candid Camera" - Elvis Presley making a film all around us? And who can forget the long line to go to the top of the Space Needle? But my most visceral memory is sitting on a Seattle curb, warm after a summer day, having walked the streets for an hour after the fair gates were closed for the night, wondering, "Where did I park my car?" Memories were born at the Seattle World's Fair for generations to come. My grandson is nearly 20 years old now. Yes, I met my husband at the Seattle World's Fair. Who can forget?



M Berk-Why I like the Seattle Center

It's because you have great events where my friends and family can join, and we can all share a fun time.

Sarah Mitchell- A place for community

When I first moved to Seattle, I couldn't understand all the ""hype"" around the Seattle Center. I mean- yeah- it's a ton of stuff in one place.. but you can find that anywhere. It wasn't until I started listening to my friends and family members talk about their experience there. Whether it was their first taste of ""Bite of Seattle,"" a hilarious people-watching story from the Folklife festival, seeing their favorite band play at Bumbershoot, or playing as a kid in the giant fountain... this one ""place"" holds an entire community's memories. Out of town visitors can't help but smile as they walk through and see Seattle-ites doing what we do best.. celebrating our community. THANK YOU for creating such an inviting place for us to all come together, both figuratively and literally.

Here's to the next fifty!

Edward Wurtz- The Seattle Center Has Everything!

The title says it all: the Seattle Center has everything! There is always something happening, whether it is: sports, concerts, cultural events, the arts, etc. When I am in Seattle, I am at the Seattle Center!

MarilynStephens- Since the World's Fair in 1962

I have been a fan of Seattle Center since 1962 when my father took me to the World's Fair there. Remember the bubbleator? I do. I have been going there since 1962 and plan to continue. In fact I will be there this weekend for the Folklife Festival.

Deb Raney-Fun Times

you can always have fun times at Seattle Center no matter what area you choose to visit

Tammy Woessner-Thank you!

50 years and 4 generations later, I still love Seattle Center!

Dawn Francisco-Fun and Free

The first time I remember the Seattle Center I was barely 3 years old. My sister was just born and there were crowds and crowds entering the gate for the World's Fair. My favorite part of the Fair were the Hawaiian Ladies doing the Hula. The crowd around them, watching, were almost all men. My mom was disgusted. Too funny.

All my life, I've continued coming to the Center. In the mid-80s, I came to the Center House every Saturday night for ballroom dancing with my best friend. Where could 22-year-olds and those of 90 both dance together and not think anything of it?

Now I'm in my 50s, 51 to be exact. I still come to the Seattle Center often because of the many cultural events. This weekend I'll be coming to Folklife. **I love being able to see and learn new things. Thank you for being a part of most of my life.**

Bryan Cook-Friends Matter

Our dearest friend, Kristine, was 15 years old when she attended the Worlds Fair with her parents. Because of the large crowds during her visit, she never made it up to the top of the Space Needle. After she told us her story some 35 years later and battling cancer, we knew exactly what to do for her 50th Birthday. We surprised her by taking her to dinner at the Needle where she also enjoyed the desert especially created for the Worlds fair. Having lived in the greater Seattle area all of her life, Kristine finally made it to the top! Kristine passed away last year after her long battle with cancer at the young age of 62. Remembering the time we spent with her that night with the beautiful views and the stories she told about the adventures she had at the fair gives us comfort knowing how happy this made her. We love and miss you Kristine!

Catherine Menezes- Passage of Time

I first moved to Seattle 12 years ago. The first time I went to the Seattle Center I was impressed with all the activities that were going on. I took my two young children to the kids area and they had the best time. I went there with my daughters school class, spent some quality time with my son having lunch and walking around. Now they are older they go to concerts and more adult events, without me, but I have no worries about them being there. It is a passing of time that goes so quickly. I will always remember the fun they had with me when we went so many years ago.

Paul Freiburger- The joy of the fountain

When our son was two years old we took him to the Seattle Center on a steamy summer evening to get away from our smoldering house. We wandered over by the fountain -- which was in random squirt mode with funky music -- and as soon as our son saw it, he



went crazy. He started sprinting around the fountain as fast as his little legs would carry him, yelling at the top of his lungs, with the biggest smile and most joyful expression on his face that I have ever seen. Now every time I see the fountain I am reminded of the sheer, unadulterated joy it brought to our son on that hot summer evening. It is one of my fondest memories.

Teresa Felix- Memories

The Seattle Center was once what I knew as the Place to be in Seattle, As a kid My dad worked there as an engineer, and I spent many days running all over the center, from the fun forest to the hockey , Car shows and concerts. Now that I have Kids, coming to the center is all about the concerts, and festivals. Spending the day roaming around eating good food, seeing good shows is what we look forward to every year, hopefully to last for many more generations.

Sabrina Robert- Senior Dancing

As I live near Seattle Center, I walk over often. There is usually something going on that will interest me, and if not I enjoy grabbing a cup of coffee, some beignets and sitting watching people.

During the holidays I went over, for coffee and there was a great band playing and seniors dancing. They were great, all dressed up the women in their fancy dresses, the men in coats and hats. It was the most relaxing afternoon, sitting and enjoying the festivities. I realized then how the Seattle Center makes a big difference in the neighborhood.

David Bates- The Ultimate Stress Reliever

I work at the south end of Lake Union. Walking from my office under Highway 99 is no pleasant feat, loud noises, carbon dioxide, inattentive drivers, but the ultimate reward is the Seattle Center. Once I am on the grounds, it all goes away; the noises change, the smells improve. If the sun is out, it is a grand slam and I park myself on the rim of the fountain and can literally feel the stress of the day rise from my shoulders. There might be two children playing in the bowl of the fountain or a whole herd, but either way, it is total joy and way cheaper than a therapist! I always leave renewed and reoriented for the balance of the day.

Tahnee Runions- Helping Others and having fun!

I remember volunteering with the Variety Club of the Northwest, the Young Adults to be exact. They held the annual telethon at the Center House for a long time and I was lucky enough to be a part of it. We got to explore every part of the building, when we weren't helping answer phones or help the celebrities and talent that raised money for the children of the NW. I wish they still held the telethon!

Of course there are many other fond memories of The Seattle Center-seeing my first concert in 8th grade there, attending an Easter egg hunt their with my mother when I was about 4-probably 1972 or so, the Bubble-ator-this was amazing and really needs to be brought back! Recent memories are of taking my children to watch the New Year's Eve celebration at the base of the Needle, brunch with Santa at the top of the Needle. And of course riding the rides and eating cotton candy.

Here's to another 50 years of making memories with families in Seattle!!!

Michael Salzman- A magical place

As a child I was able to visit the Seattle center and found it to be a magical place! I grew up in Alaska and in 1976 at the age of seven we took a trip to Seattle. I remember going up into the space needle, riding the bubble elevator and enjoying the rides in the fun forest. The time spent at Seattle center was one of the happiest of my childhood.

As an adult and a parent I love to share the magic with my daughter. I have brought my daughter to the Seattle center at least once a month since she was three. At seven she still refers to the Seattle center as "Our Space Needle". We love the fun forest and enjoy the rides and friendly people. We often eat at the center house and although the bubble elevator is long gone we enjoy the children's museum and many hosted events. Pacific science center and the children's theatre has provided hours of education and fun for all of us and every six months we will take the monorail to Westlake center to shop, eat and go to the candy store. I am proud to be able to share the magic of my childhood with my daughter and thanks to the Seattle center and the fun forest, we always enjoy this magical place!

Beckie Ish- Seattle Center a place to do so many different things

I love the Seattle center because of the variety of things to do. I never get tired of spending time with their friends and family. I always take all of our out of town visitors and I always see something different every time. I like the way we utilize the facility for many different events throughout the year. I am so glad that we have a place like this so close and if you do not want to spend money you don't have to and you can still have a great time walking around and letting your kids play in the fountain. The monorail is also a fun ride to westlake mall.



Cheryl Brown- Seattle Center is simply sensational!

I didn't hesitate to become a fan of Seattle Center! No matter what activity you attend there, it is bound to be worth your while. Fairs, concerts, food, education and crafts, all shared with smiling people of all ages. It's a great place to take your family or out of town guests, or even to spend a day of fun by yourself. Free wifi too! What more could you want?

Andrea Feodorov- Why I Love Seattle Center

The year was 1994. I had lived and worked in Seattle for fifteen years. It was an unusually warm and sunny Saturday afternoon, the beginning of Labor Day weekend. I'd been to Seattle Center many times, but this time fate had an amorous purpose: to usher the man of my dreams.

His name was Michael, an L.A. transplant having second thoughts about relocating. His head hung low. His eyes seemed sad and distracted as he bumped into me at the International Fountain. He apologized at length, beautiful Najavo eyes springing to life from a self-imposed angst.

He offered to buy me lunch and we walked to the Center House. Afterward, we settled on dinner. Within a week, we were inseparable.

We still visit Seattle Center now and then from our home in sunny Las Vegas, and laugh about our chance encounter. And we're still married after sixteen years. Some would call it fate, other coincidence. But for me, Seattle Center will always be that magical place that changed my life forever.

Jill Taylor- The Heart of the City

My first trip to Seattle was 30 years ago. We did the ferry, did Pike Place Market but the thing that stuck in my head, the one place that seemed like the Heart of the City was Seattle Center. It was my first time on a monorail which even then seemed futuristic to a girl from small town Idaho. Then there was laying on my back watching a laser show with Pink Floyd music blaring through the speakers. Dipping my feet in the International Fountain, riding the rides at the Fun Forest and then eating my first gyro at the Center House.

Now I see Seattle Center every day as I drive to work. I still look at it with awe and to me it is The Heart of Seattle!

Kelly Bauer- Bright Cheery Memories of Seattle Center Events

I moved to Seattle in 2005 from Nashville, TN. I loved the heat of Nashville and was not looking forward to the rain and dreary days of life in Seattle. Shortly after I moved here I experienced my first music festival at Seattle Center and suddenly had renewed hope in Seattle living. Now, I am married and living an hour south of Seattle, but every time the Seattle Center has a festival or event we are excited to come to the city. We have made a tradition (the last three years) of staying with a friend in Seattle on Labor Day weekend so we can walk to Bumbershoot at the Seattle Center all three days of the festival. Thank you Seattle Center for being the light in the dark and damp days...your events put bright cheery days in my memories and put fun events on my calendar to look forward to!

Michelle Wonder- Growing up with Seattle Center

As a teen I loved coming into the city to see concerts and hang around the center. As an adult I've loved Bumbershoot and other festivals. As a parent I love bringing my child to the center for the Children's Museum, the fountain and a safe area to roam!

Curtis Lu- A childhood of wonder and more...

Growing up in Seattle, the Seattle Center was a home to many events that I participated in and attended. Many memories were made here. From sporting events, festivals, concerts, meetings, high school graduation to going there just for fun. One of the earliest recollection of going here was to go up the space needle. A place you can see the splendor of the city all at once. You can see how unique Seattle is with mountains and water on all sides and high rises nearby. I also remember field trips to the science center and to watch a play at the theaters. This was a place where all ages come to play. From the sports and concerts in the Key Arena, to the multitude of festivals on the grounds. There never seems to be a day where there isn't something going on. I even took my PE exam here and judged student competitions here. I love the iconic nature of this place that I even planned a scavenger hunts on the grounds for a groups kids I was working with. With the more recent addition of the EMP, Sci-fi museum, Boeing Imax and more, and the updated needle and Mccaw hall, there continues to be more to explore and enjoy here all year round for everyone. I look forward to my children getting the opportunity to explore, enjoy and experience what the Seattle Center has to offer and why i love this place.

Heather Jaynes- The next 100

The seattle center has been a huge part of my life since moving to the seattle area, 18 years ago. I remember my first bumbershoot where tickets were just 12 dollars, we were so little, came over on the ferry, no parents, just a bunch of teenagers. We had the best



time, we even lost a friend for many hours it was so much more excitement than we were used to in Kitsap. Now I live in Snohomish County and I go to the center for tons of events from Bumbershoot, to Italian fest, the Folklife, to Cask Conditioned Beer Fest, for the storm, seems like I am always there. That's what I love about it, there is always something going on. I am still young enough to believe I am invincible so I say why the next 50 years, lets plan for a 100, hopefully all the next generations will be able to enjoy it as much as I do, and of course that is why I am a fan. I love you seattle center, keep those events coming.

Cornelia Gauger- My Teenage Hangout

I was a teenager in the 70's and I lived at the top of Queen Anne Hill, so the Seattle Center was a HUGE part of my growing up.

As a "tween" I was there almost every weekend in the summer. It was a safe, cheap and fun place to be and it was only a short bus ride from my house. We rode the Bubbleator, browsed the International Bazaar (ask me how many gifts I purchased there!), ate at the Food Circus, played games at the arcade and best of all, rode on the rides! The Zipper was my favorite and riding it cost the same as bus fare, so I often spent my bus money to ride the Zipper and then trudged my way up Queen Anne Hill to get home. One magical summer, the guys that ran the Zipper got to know my friend Paul and I and would sometimes gesture us over to ride for free when they needed to fill up one more car! The free rides were the sweetest.

Later on as a teenager, it was still a great place to hang out. A cheap and easy place to get to when you're dating but not old enough to drive. We still rode the rides but there were other fun distractions (like "making out" on the grass around the International Fountain). My boyfriend was pretty good at Skeeball and was always trying to win cheesy stuffed animals for me.

It was at the Seattle Center Arcade where I first played Pong. Was that ever cool! Looking back, Pong was probably my (and many other teens from the 70's) first interaction with a computer. Little did we know how primitive that would seem some day.

One other funny memory: When Elton John played at the Coliseum one year, tickets sold out in 15 minutes. My girlfriend knew the name of one of the security guards so (after a few snorts of Vodka) we got the stupid idea that maybe we could sneak in to the concert. Of course it didn't work.

Folklife. Bumbershoot. I went to every festival, every year. Really great fun, really great memories. They'll always be with me, but I sure would like for future generations to be writing this kind of essay some day.

Ben Simon- Seattle Center defines me

Seattle Center defines me. It starts as I was born in 1962, my father was a musician and played at the World's fair with his Dixie Band. Our life long family friend Art Mineo wrote the theme song for the fair that year. From an early childhood attending the Science Center and the Fun center was a highlight of our family outings to the Center. I remember meeting JP Patches (as I am a "Patches Pal") going to Soccer matches at memorial stadium and of course going up in the Space Needle. I have been terrified of heights but the needle offers a different perspective and I have grown to accept the view and enjoy it. I have collected many artifacts from the world's fair of 62'. I treasure the Center as that is where I give tours to all my out of town guests. The Space Needle has been home to special Birthdays, Anniversaries and I have attended a couple of weddings here. It such a terrific landmark for the world to identify Seattle. When friends see the Space Needle in movies or on commercials they say they always think of their friend Ben. The Sonics made the Center their home since 1967-68 and during the last decade I was fortunate enough to be spotted in the crowd and brought down to center court to dance with Squatch and the Sonic Dancers. I kept being invited back and became known as the Key Arena Ballerina which was a comical name as I have been 300 pounds of pure fun. I have a bobble head of me made by the Sonics organization.

The Center has also given me Taste of Seattle, Bumbershoot and countless concerts. My first concert was Queen in the then named "Coliseum". What a show! My last concert was Billy Joel and Elton John, this was a great double date with my wife her brother and his wife. I am so excited for the NEXT 50 YEARS! I plan on being here for all of it. Ben a.k.a. Key Arena Ballerina

Katherine Robbins- Best City in the World!

I have been to many cities but none have the same appeal as Seattle! No where I have been feels so welcoming and quaint while still packing in all the entertainment, shopping, nostalgia, and restaurants like the great city of Seattle. I love taking my kids and just seeing all the sites that it has to offer. But on occasion I love to just have one on one time with my husband. It just offers such diversity that everyone can find something that pleases all their senses.

Tim Woods- Forty-Eight Years

I grew up and lived in Montana all my life, with the loss of my Wife of 32yrs., two of my children living in the Seattle area and now having a wonderful woman in my life who also lives in the Seattle area I have been spending a great deal of time out here and enjoying it!! I usually don't enter these type of things but I thought it funny that I should receive this email after having one of those memorable once in a lifetime nights at the Seattle Center last night! My lady friend and I had tickets at KeyArena for the Eagles concert



which was phenomenal, truly a spectacular show!! After the show we just walked around the center enjoying the near full moon and the great Seattle

Vistas and I noticed the Monorail which brought back childhood dreams of a trip to Seattle as an eight year old who for the first time was seeing a metropolis and worlds fair for the first time and had ridden the Monorail then....So we took a ride on the Monorail this late evening for the first since I was eight, going on a round trip to Westlake but not only a short ten minute round trip but because we were the only ones on the return leg we were allowed to sit next to the driver in the front...awesome! What a wonderful area you provide for your home town folks and those of us lucky enough to visit and build memories as these, Thank You!!

Kathleen Ringo- Where were you in 62?

I was living in Puyallup and in second grade at Spinning Grade school.

Like many, we had relatives drive out from the mid-west to see the fair and the sites. From the fair, of course waiting in line to go up in the SPACE NEEDLE and see around. I remember the Japan exhibit and my mother bought me a geisha doll, which I still have. Did not see Elvis, unfortunately.

I have some of our original fair souvenirs including the record Meet Me at the Fair. I have since bought the Space Needle bourbon bottle and some glasses to add to my collection. So, though I have few concrete memories, I still love the fair!

Sandy Sprague- Why I am a fan.

I am a fan because I love to keep up to date with things going on in my home state of Washington. I like to find out where the fun places are to go and listen to all the updated music.

Sometimes the things my friends do when they are in Seattle are so nostalgic.

I am disabled and because of this I am inbound most of the time, so being able to watch online what fun things they do, helps me to have fun too. thanks, Alottabit (Sandy S.)

Linda Crothers- A Great Summer Job!

I tell people I was the youngest person to work at the 1962 World's Fair! You had to be 18 to work there and I turned 18 on April 20 1962, the day before the fair opened. It was a fabulous fun summer! I was one of a group of girls that sold film and souvenirs and wore a red plaid uniform. We had carts on the grounds. Mine was located just outside of the "Million Dollar" display near the International Fountain and the Food Circus. It was a great

opportunity to talk to people from all over the world and to see dignitaries and celebrities. On my days off, I would use my workers pass and visit the fair as a tourist. My home was on nearby Queen Anne Hill so access was easy. I also arranged to have my boyfriend (now husband of 44 years) admitted. We had lots of fun days on the "Wild Mouse" and other rides. We tried all the exotic foods - our favorite was the "Mongolian Steak Sandwich". We also toured all of the displays and pavilions.

My boss was asked to send 4 girls to audition for a bit part in the "Elvis" movie. I was chosen, but all 4 of us were quickly rejected. The producer pointed at us one at a time and stated, "Too tall, too blond, too wholesome, (that was me) and too old." My mom was pleased with the too wholesome comment! They ended up hiring an actress and borrowing a uniform. The part was very brief and hardly worth all of the fuss.

I had been very familiar with the area where the Fair was located. I learned to drive on the residential streets that became the fairgrounds. We watched as the Space Needle and Science Center were constructed. We played high school football games at Memorial Stadium. Our high school graduation was held at the "Arena" that for one year only was titled "Worlds Fair Arena"!

It was very special to be involved in the "Seattle Worlds Fair" and the development of the wonderful community resource, The Seattle Center.

Anita Noll- Inutero @ World's Fair 62

I've heard the stories of Dad taking his pregnant wife to the 1962 Worlds Fair, then a couple months later I was born. So I've always felt like Seattle Center was part of my DNA. We often visited, while I was a child, I even recall being there when the 4th of July fireworks went wrong and one landed in the crowd. I remember the Bubbulator, and riding the Monorail. The trip up to the top of the Space Needle has always been fun to share with anyone new to the PNW. I was even delighted to compare the Needle with Auckland, New Zealand's Sky Tower. Wow, same view, amazing! Starbucks anyone? No, how about Seattle's Best Coffee? Really? yes!

King Tut in the 80's, dog shows in the 90's, Josh Groban and KISS in the 2000's - and always, always browse the Center House for something new and fun.

Thank you Seattle Center - for being such a big part of my life. I hope we both shine in the years ahead.

Rob Dinnell- Born to be in Washington

Never want to go back to CA. I've been in WA for two years semiretired, and wish I had been born here. But on the other hand, I may not have understood how good it is in WA.



Making a living is not too hard, cost of housing being lower(at least in lewis county) I am close to rivers, lakes, forests, and parks,(AKA Mt. St Helens)Mt. Ranier, Olympic mountains. Fishing, restaurants, waterfront, skiing, fishing, boating , shopping, big city all within two or three hours....the best! I can drive 15 miles with no other traffic, unlike Santa Cruz CA where I stalled in traffic to go one mile, over to safeway. rush hour....no way to get across town. Not as many beggars, or teenage slugs , begging at traffic corners or making downtown unbearable as in Santa Cruz CA. WA feels safe, even with guns and hunters and logging trucks. Yeah, it rains a lot, but it is OK. Dont move here, Td hate to see it change, Oh and this, my son can have a normal life riding bikes, walking rivers, playing soccer, hiking, swimming and all we used to do as kids with little fear of others!

Linda Ball- The World's Fair

I was 6 when my parents and sister and I went to the 1962 World's Fair. I live in Seattle now, as of last September, but I lived in Alaska most of my life. The trip in 1962 was my first time on an airplane, first time to "the lower 48," first time really for many things. I still remember standing in front of our motel in a little blue dress feeling so happy. And I loved the Space Needle! Still do. I have a hard time keeping my eyes off of it! So, those are happy memories, and I'm happy to be living here now.

David Baker- A Rainy Day At The Seattle World's Fair

When my Grandfather learned that there was going to be a World's Fair in Seattle, in 1962, he immediately contacted the people in charge of assigning space at the Seattle Center. My Grandfather had a large inventory of leather, brass & copper products made in Morocco and requested the World's Fair producers give him permission to assemble an authentic Moroccan tent for the purpose of selling Moroccan souvenirs of Leather & Brass. The Fair producers assigned him a space next to the Kobe Bell display where he put up an authentic Moroccan tent consisting of a metal frame covered in red & green canvas with two entry doors, the only thing missing was a live camel. My Grandfather dressed up in the Moroccan traditional dress and really looked the part of a Moroccan trader.

A note of interest regarding the tent was that when it rained, and yes it did rain in the summer of 62, one of the corners of the tent filled up with water and they had to use a broom stick to push the tent up from the inside to get rid of the puddle forming. One rainy day a well dressed couple from another state decided to stand near the corner of the tent where the puddle was forming on the roof of the tent and when my Grandfather pushed the broom stick up to get rid of the water this nice couple received a serious drenching. After the surprise bath they came into the tent to complain and my Grandfather apologized and gracefully offered them payment to take care of their dry cleaning and a new hair treatment for the woman. After that experience my Grandfather

posted someone outside the tent to watch for people before purging the water puddle from the tent roof.

Scott Bell-Nothin' Better than the Center

I thoroughly enjoy going to Seattle Center for a number of reasons. Having moved here from Denver near 4 yrs ago I have seen a number of Sonics games when there were still in town at the Key. I've participated in the past 3 St. Patty's runs and really enjoyed this years event. Living nearby I often run through the center on my way to the outdoor Seattle Art Museum, not to mention all the times I've been to the Pacific Science Center. The Center has it all, and it only gets better.

Marlaina Shephard- A backdrop for many memorable moments...

Seattle Center has been a constant part of my life...

For the childhood mind a trip to Seattle Center is an imaginative journey of wondrous proportions. Through the years I've walked amongst dinosaurs, searched for unusual bugs in a jungle forest, explored the fascinating creatures of local tide pools, learned to weave cedar bark in a serene Native American long house, shattered a red rose dipped in liquid nitrogen, viewed far away stars and created works of art. All of these highlights and I've only just scrapped the surface of my adventures at the Science Center. It is undeniable that my childhood experiences at the Seattle Center influenced the inquisitive mind I grew to have. My parents both attended the World's Fair in 1962 when they were children; this experience undoubtedly impressed them so much that they returned to Seattle Center again and again. Many a family outing consisted of us loading up the car and heading to the city, to the Seattle Center, where my family has held a membership for decades.

As I grew up Seattle Center continued to be a fixture in my life. Many a warm summer day was spent riding the ferry from Bremerton, catching the Monorail to Seattle Center. It was here that my friends and I could find a wealth of activities to enjoy; playing in the International Fountain, attending a Pain in the Grass concert at the Mural Amphitheater, playing Laser Tag at the Fun Forest or catching a late night laser show.

In my adult life, Seattle Center continues to holdfast an intriguing wonder that keeps me returning. From concerts at the Key Arena, to interactive exhibits at EMP, fascinating pop culture icons at the Sci-Fi museum, cultural events at the Center House and friends weddings at the Space Needle; I just keep finding reason to come to the city to visit Seattle Center, again. Its one of my favorite places to take photographs and it always tops my list of places to take friends or family from out of town.

Seattle Center has been and will continue to be a backdrop for many memorable moments in my life.



Michael Wilson-Atop the Space Needle on Bended Knee

In 1992, I decided to propose to my girlfriend Michelle. We had never gone inside The Space Needle so I decided that would be the perfect place to surprise her with my marriage proposal. To this day I'm glad I did because every time I see it, it reminds me of one of the most special days of my life.

Michelle is a tremendous lover of animals. I told her that we were going to visit The Woodland Park Zoo on that day. She was very excited about this alone. We spent most of the day exploring this wonderful zoo. As we were leaving, I asked if she was hungry. She of course said yes, so I started heading toward Seattle Center.

We parked the car and we started heading inside Seattle Center. I said, "Michelle, lets go to the top of the Space Needle. It'll be fun." She agreed, still unaware that I had made reservations earlier.

We rode the elevator to the revolving restaurant and she was pleasantly surprised when we were seated in this magnificent establishment with the grand scenic views. We ordered and thoroughly enjoyed our meal. We both were having a great time and I will never forget the happiness that shone in her eyes.

After dinner, we journeyed to the observation deck to take in the breath-taking views of the Emerald City. Hand-in-hand we were as one. At the moment I felt was right, I stopped and knelt down on one knee still holding her warm hand. I looked up into her eyes and asked the most important question I will ever utter in my life. "Will you marry me?" Tears of joy and the biggest smile I have ever seen sprang forth from My Michelle. The word yes gave us matching smiles and I placed the engagement ring on her finger.

This was one of the greatest days of my life and The Space Needle was a major part of making it an unforgettable reality. I can't help but smile every time I see it in the distance, causing me to reminisce about the day I made Michelle happy.

Lili Gelberg-Seattle Surprise

'Twas 1962...My husband and I came to Seattle for a Trade Show. To my surprise, it was where the Exposition had been. I wandered around in awe, one statue, then another and oh, the gorgeous fountains.

I certainly couldn't photograph this beauty with my little old camera. With direction from some friendly Seattle people, I hopped on the Monorail and found a camera store downtown. I rented a more modern camera, rushed back and took pictures of statues and fountains to my heart's content.

I'll always remember the beauty of Seattle....

Julie Whitehorn- Country Girl Finds Love in the City

I grew up in rural Pierce County, with a gorgeous view of Mt Rainier and summers working in the strawberry fields. My first visit to Seattle Center was at age 16 with my high school sweetheart. It was a lovely summer evening and the city seemed truly magical, an other-world where anything was possible. He showed me the different clocks in the Space Needle, at which time I realized I was out past my curfew, and we hurried back. Two years later he asked me to marry him, but I was determined to go to college and to travel, the first girl in my family to do so. Fast forward ten years: degree in hand, I am planning a trip to Europe when I spy a tall, handsome stranger in the Green Room at the Opera House. I was a makeup artist; he a supernumerary (with badly-drawn eyebrows). The show was Otello, fated love, Shakespeare by Verdi, a powerful brew! We chatted. We had coffee, then a movie, then went dancing. He loaned me his Michelin guides, and wrote me a poem I read on the airplane to Paris. I called him a lonely week later from a phone booth on the Left Bank, he flew out to join me. We have been together ever since. Our travels are shorter now, but we live within walking distance of the Center, and our children join us at the opera, theatre, science center, and so many other treasures there. Seattle center will always be a fountain for us, of many happy memories, and of the hope for more.

Kara-Lee Ruotolo-The love of my life

Last Labor Day the love of my life proposed to me up at the Sky restaurant in the Space Needle. Each time I am down at Seattle Center and see the Space Needle, I can't help but smile and give thanks. I also really appreciate the cultural activities and celebrations that the Seattle Center organizes and hosts. They are an important part of embracing our community.

Bonnie Mason-I won a trip to the World's Fair

In 1962, I was 16 and lived in Phoenix, AZ. I signed up to win a trip to the World's Fair at a local grocery store. They called to tell my mom that I had won and she hung up on them, thinking it was a prank. They called back and confirmed that it was true. The prize was for a family of 4 for 4 days at the Fair, plus spending money. We flew on Western Airlines in August and took a bus from the airport to downtown. We learned they had rented a furnished apartment for us, so we took taxi's everywhere. We had fun riding the Monorail, going through the foriegn exhibits at Key Arena and I loved the International Founatrain and the Pacific Science Center. We went to the top of the Space Needle and could see all of Seattle, quite a treat for a girl from the desert. It was all so magical for a 16 year old. There were large crowds, with people from many different countries, I grew up with Hispanics and seeing so many different people was amazing. Since we never expected to see Seattle again, we did the tourist things, took an Argosy cruise to Lake Washington through the Locks, went downtown to the movie at the 5th Ave Theater (or the same area), went to Pikes Place Market and the pier shops and had a great time. I was



told it was a million to one shot that I won. I only had 3 entries in the barrel. It was not long after that when companies required you be 18 to enter contests. I married a man in 1968 from Centralia and we lived in the Phoenix area for many years. In 1995 we had a job change and came back up to this area. When we went to the Seattle Center it was similar, but with changes here and there. We enjoy taking visiting friends to the Seattle Center and walk around. It is a great place to attend events or just relax by the fountain. It is still an attraction and Seattle should be proud. Now on to the next 50 years.

Carol Guettler- I was born during the World's Fair

I guess I feel an affinity towards the Space Needle because I went up to the top at minus 3 weeks old and again when I was a month old. I have great memories of spending my 40th birthday party with my family and friends at the Space Needle restaurant.

I have lived in Seattle all my life and appreciate the value of an open space in the middle of a big city where people can enjoy themselves and have something free to do every weekend. I have several kids now and we are members of the Pacific Science Center as well as the EMP/SFM. I love everything Seattle Center has to offer.

Joe Doney- The Beauty Bowl

Sad and delightful days come and go
But never ever was there one more so
The Twin Towers having just been destroyed
Seattle's citizens wanted to show they cared
A call was made to all that could hear
"The Seattle Center is the place to commandeer"
Never, not anywhere else have I ever seen
The beauty in a bouquet of flowers for friends
The whole bowl full at The Centers musical fountain
Something so tragic answered by Love abounding.