



# U.S.E. NEWSLETTER — Fall & Holidays 2016

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## *Thankful for USE*

**FROM OUR PRESIDENT - LORELEI CHEUNG**

When I joined USE in April 2014, I expected to have someone walk my dogs occasionally and babysit my then-only-child once in a while. I expected to maybe give someone a ride to the airport, prepare a meal, or maybe have a conversation about budgeting/money management (a passion of mine). I was excited about the picnics and raising my child with a greater sense of community than what my neighborhood currently offered.

I was lucky that right off the bat my services were requested; I answered a call to assist a member with her taxes. I wasn't sure that I would be much help but I figured if nothing else, I could just talk to her and see how things went. We ended up working together for over 10 hours - I helped her with her computer, talked to her about tax software, organized her files and I provided her with a partner for motivation.

It was that first exchange that utterly and completely changed my understanding and appreciation of what USE is. Advertised as merely a time bank, USE became an organization that blended generations, offering each cohort an opportunity to share the best of their skills and experiences with each other; it became a way of knowing

someone in my neighborhood and being welcomed into their home; and, it became a way of building a personal relationship in a time of virtual connection.

I have since had many more delightful experiences exchanging services within USE. Some have been quick transactions - car rides, meals dropped off, etc., while others have continued to build relationships. My absolute favorite "side effect" of USE is running into members while out and about, whether at Trader Joe's or Reston Town Center; it gives Reston that small town feel that reminds me of my childhood.

So this year, among many things, I am thankful for USE. I am truly thankful for the wonderful and helpful people whom I have met. I am thankful for the relationships I've developed and how they have touched me and my family's life. And last but not least, I am thankful for all of those who have volunteered their time to keep USE alive. Without the organization, there would be no platform for us to come together.

As a way of sharing in the season's joy, I'd love to hear why you are thankful for USE. Please feel free to write me about an exchange you had that moved you, or maybe that you really just love Reston USE. In the spirit of exchanging, Reston USE will give you 1 hour of credit for your submission.

I look forward to seeing you all in January for our member meeting and wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Lorelei Cheung  
President, Reston USE  
[restonusetimebank@gmail.com](mailto:restonusetimebank@gmail.com)

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**To learn about or join USE:** Find us at: [www.restonUSE.org](http://www.restonUSE.org). Write us at: PO Box 8922, Reston VA 20195. Phone us at: 703-873-7578. Email us at: [RestonUSETimeBank@gmail.com](mailto:RestonUSETimeBank@gmail.com).

**USE Members:** To access our USE hOurworld website: Find us at [www.restonUSE.org](http://www.restonUSE.org). At the top right side of the web page: Click on the top box with the purple header. This will take to the USE hOurworld website. There you can log in and record a transaction, monitor your transactions and profile and learn about other USE members and their services and needs.

## **OPEN POSITIONS ON THE USE BOARD:**

### **Membership Engagement Chair**

- Organizes social events for the USE community
- Creates and maintains hOurworld groups for services
- Monitors email account and respond; approximately 5 emails a week: [restonusetimebank@gmail.com](mailto:restonusetimebank@gmail.com).
- Responds to member emails (not regarding transactions/hOurworld)
- Drafts emails to membership regarding upcoming events/activities
- Updates and maintains USE's internal Facebook group
- Add Facebook posts as requested (particularly events)
- Drafts articles for the newsletter (especially regarding comments on transactions)

### **Outreach & Recruitment Chair**

- Identifies organizations/groups with similar or complementary offerings
- Identifies and makes recommendations for community events to be added to USE's calendar
- Will identify potential fundraising opportunities as necessary
- Places rack cards/business cards in strategic locations
- Drafts or collects articles to be submitted to local newspapers regarding USE
- Suggests ways to raise awareness of USE within the community

### **Local Village/ Community Group Liaison**

- Attends village/community meetings on behalf of USE
- Provides Board with updates on external meetings

## **MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICES LISTS:**

The current membership list and member services list have been emailed to everyone. If you are unable to print the lists or view them on your computer or phone, a printed copy can be made available. Please contact [restonusetimebank@gmail.com](mailto:restonusetimebank@gmail.com) if you need a printed copy. We would appreciate it if you can help conserve trees and USE funds if at all possible.



## **Our Annual Business Meeting and Potluck Supper**

is just around the corner, probably on one of the last two Saturdays in January. An announcement of the exact date, time and location will be coming your way soon. Stay tuned.

**We need a volunteer — or two or three — to organize this year's supper.** Our board members put in many hours to keep USE happening. A few hours from our other members would go a long way to spreading the efforts — and the satisfaction — needed to make our organization work at its best. Please contact Lorelei Cheung at [lorelei.cheung@gmail.com](mailto:lorelei.cheung@gmail.com).



## USE 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual COOKIE EXCHANGE

*Late Saturday afternoon on December 3<sup>rd</sup>...*

*...USE members gathered once again at the home of Alan and Kusum Krishnan. And once again, guests displayed cheerful spirits while enjoying the tasty wines Alan so graciously provided. And the cookie selection was again both creative and delicious. Court Rawson's chocolate ginger cookies, just baked in the afternoon, were a huge hit. So were Kusum's oatmeal cookies with chocolate chips and coconut - mmmm! There were peanut butter & chocolate chip cookies and peppermint bark, along with some treats from India, just to name a few of the goodies to be had. Best of all: A merry time was had by all!*



*Kusum Krishnan smiles with Court Rawson and friend Brenda.*

# The September Picnic

-by Cheri Wubbels

The September 17<sup>th</sup> USE picnic was one of our best ever! We were able to put people together on the spot for services they needed. And the group really seemed to flow from one table to another, greeting friends that have worked together on a project, and there was a real sense of willingness to tackle new projects together.

The weather was fabulous, and those that helped with the picnic in response to our last-minute requests on our private Facebook page were fabulous. To mention a couple: **Ruth Sievers** designed 8+ dainty fall floral arrangements with her artist's touch, and they were carried home by many happy USE members at her request. **Bonnie Whyte** shared a beautiful arrangement from one of the food tables.

**Lloyd Agüero** once more brought the extra serving tables we needed and was official greeter (his position in USE since 2011). **Laura Gutnick** was at the sign-in table, another year of faithfully filling the same spot.

**JoAnne Becker** brought a new member with her, whom she has been inviting for some time, and **Elaine Keener** finally agreed it was time to become a member! Joanne earned 1 USE hour of credit, but the fun was in having her friend now able to use and serve USE members. Elaine promptly signed up to pet sit the next week!

Congratulations to all who worked in the background—and special thanks to our callers: **Jo Klein, Joanne Becker, Betty Levinson, Alice Markham, Elli Marlow, Linda Holloway, Mary Frances Kordick, Bonnie Whyte, Kathy Bush** and **Cheri Wubbels**. You made all the difference in our attendance.

AND IN THE TONE OF THE GATHERING: IT WAS A REAL PARTY OF FRIENDS AND FRIENDS-TO-BE!

## Some of the exchanges that sprang from the picnic gathering:

One member requested help with moving, and several members came to her aid. This event resulted in a successful move and new friendships.

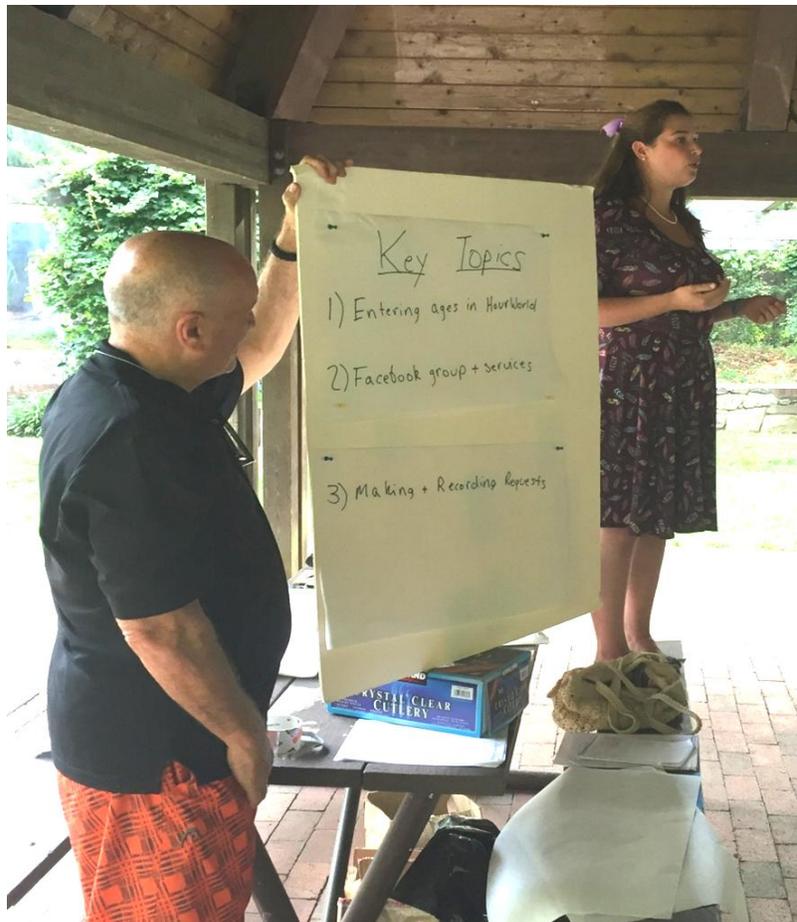
**Are you willing to share some of your experiences?** We'd love to hear about them. We'd post them in this newsletter and/or in the weekly newsletter. Contact [restonusetimebank@gmail.com](mailto:restonusetimebank@gmail.com) to share your story.



We want to express special appreciation to **Alberta Baker** for supervising the food tables. (She's prominently in the photo wearing the tie-dyed T-shirt). Alberta took on the job and handled everything with ease and efficiency. Thanks so much, Alberta!

Also clearly visible in the photo: **Cenie Edelman** (behind Alberta), **Bonnie Whyte** and **John Lovaas** (rear center) and **Fran Lovaas** (right).

**David Bausman** helps President **Lorelei Chung** as she leads our (very brief) USE meeting. Everyone wanted to get back to the food and the company!



## Count and log in your Transaction Hours!!

This is important! It is the sum of members' hours that show the health of our organization. It helps us and the rest of the community know how we are doing. So even if you are exchanging with a close friend who is also a USE member, your exchanges count! Log them into hOurworld!

We have published instructions on doing this in the past. Email [restonusetimebank@gmail.com](mailto:restonusetimebank@gmail.com) for help or if you are still having trouble, call on one of the USE Board members for help. It isn't as hard as it may look. And one of us can walk you through the process.

## Estimate of USE Transaction Hours - January to November 15, 2016:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Rides/Transportation                                | 48         |
| Home Repair   | 26         |
| Pet Care  | 23         |
| Children/Youth                                      | 11         |
| Computer  | 10         |
| Moving & Hauling                                    | 9          |
| Events  | 8          |
| Garden/Yard   | 8          |
| Sewing  | 8          |
| Cooking & Food                                      | 7          |
| Other   | <u>26</u>  |
| <b>Total Member-to-Member<br/>Transaction Hours</b> | <b>184</b> |
| <b>Service Hours to Reston USE</b>                  | <b>340</b> |
| <b>TOTAL Service Hours</b>                          | <b>524</b> |



# *Happiest of Holiday Seasons, USE Members!*

*And...*

*We'll see you at the annual  
Meeting & Potluck in January.  
Info will be coming your way soon on that.*

*-Kathy Bush  
Newsletter Coordinator*