

Center for Touch Drawing

Deborah Koff-Chapin

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the resonant field of the Touch Drawing Gathering. Please note that the Gathering is longer this year! Read the following information carefully. I have done my best to make it easy for you to plan your travel by writing out some things in great detail. If you are not flying, ignore the shuttle and airport information. Download and keep this letter and the Whidbey Institute Welcome Packet. We will re-send if you lose them. I will be in touch again as we get closer to our Gathering time. I am happy to answer any questions you might have. Contact me at 360-221-5745 or preferably center@touchdrawing.com.

This info sheet includes the following subjects:

1. Arrival
2. Departure
3. New extended Friday schedule - Afternoon session and evening beach picnic, plus Saturday breakfast at Deborah's Langley home if you stay Friday night.
4. Travel Details
5. Lodging at the retreat center
6. Extended stays on Whidbey Island
7. What to bring
8. Food at the Gathering
9. Art materials
10. Important contact information

Blessings on your preparations,
Deborah Koff-Chapin

1. ARRIVAL:

Check In at the Whidbey Institute:

The main information table will be up the stairs at the entrance to Thomas Berry Hall. If you can't walk the stairs, a car can take you around to the other side of the building. Check in to receive your room assignment. Someone will guide and orient you to your room.

Arrival Times:

Plan to arrive at the Whidbey Institute with enough time to register and settle in on Sunday, July 14th. We prefer you arrive after 2:00pm, but we will be there setting up from about noon. The dining hall will have supplies for decorating your name tag and drawing folder. Light snacks will be provided. We gather for dinner at 5:30. The opening session begins around 6:45pm.

Getting to Whidbey Island from the Airport:

Fly in to SeaTac Airport near Seattle, Washington, arriving no later than 3:45 pm Sunday. The airport is 1 ½ to 2 hours from the retreat center including the ferry. If you don't plan to rent a car, take the Whidbey Seatac Shuttle leaving at 10:45, 12:45, 2:45 or 4:45. If you take the 4:45 shuttle, you will arrive at the retreat center at the end of dinner.

If you have checked luggage, plan at least one hour between landing and the shuttle departure time. They will not let you reserve a shuttle seat with less than an hour between the flight arrival and shuttle departure. If timing is tight, they will have you to reserve a seat on the

next shuttle, but would allow you to 'walk on' an earlier shuttle if there is room. If you are not checking bags, they are more flexible. Make your shuttle reservations at least a week before travel. Call 877-679-4003 or <http://www.seatacshuttle.com>. Tell them you are getting off at the Langley/Clinton stop. Please also make a Taxi reservation for the short ride to Whidbey Institute. Call All Island Express Taxi 360-841-8294. Tell them the shuttle you will be on, and that you will be going to the Touch Drawing Gathering at Whidbey Institute. Most likely you will share the ride & cost with other Gatherers. We do not have Uber or Lyft on the island. ***New Airport! Alaska and United now have limited flights into Everett/Boeing Field. As of now you would have to use taxi or ride service to get to and from the ferry & center.***

2. DEPARTURE

Departure Times:

On our last day, Friday, July 19, we will close our final session at 3:00pm. Please do not plan to depart before then. Closure is an essential part of the integration process. We hope you can stay for our celebratory picnic dinner at Maxwellton beach, which is included in your room & board fee. If you are flying out on Friday, **a 6:30pm flight is the earliest you could catch** using the 3:10 airport shuttle. It arrives at the airport at 5:00. Other shuttles depart at 6:10 & 8:10pm. If you stay for the picnic we can drive you to the 8:10 shuttle which arrives at the airport at 9:30 for red-eye flights. It can also drop you off at any motel near the airport if you have an early Saturday flight.

Extra Friday Night Stay in Your Room:

This year you are encouraged to spend Friday night at Whidbey Institute. We will bill you and extra \$80 if you are in a room or \$20 if you are camping, including tax. You had the option to choose this on the registration form. Contact us if you did not but want to now. For a longer stay on the island, search Air BnB or VRBO.

Getting to the Shuttle Stop:

We can drive you from the picnic to the 8:10 shuttle on Friday evening, for a red eye flight or to a motel for an early morning flight. Other times you can use All Island Express Taxi 360-841-8294. If you need to take a shuttle on Saturday, the earliest flight you could catch is around 8:00am. Take the 5:10am shuttle to arrive at the airport at 6:30am.

3. BONUS BREAKFAST AT DEBORAH'S HOME SATURDAY AFTER THE GATHERING:

This is a way to have a more gradual re-entry to 'the world' after a magical week. We will work out ride sharing to Langley when we are together. Deborah will have a big pot of oatmeal, coffee & teas. Some of the best visioning and integration can happen at these times. Then spend some of the day in the seaside town of Langley where there are antique and gift shops, specialty book stores, great cafes, views of the Cascade Mountains and beach. Take a taxi to any scheduled shuttle if you are flying Saturday.

4. TRAVEL DETAILS

Sample Arrival Plan:

Arrive SeaTac by 11:45; pick up baggage; catch 12:45 Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle; arrive at Langley/Clinton stop at 2:20. Take taxi to the retreat center and arrive by 2:30.

OR

Arrive SeaTac by 1:45; catch 2:45 shuttle; arrive at Langley/Clinton stop at 4:20. Take Taxi to the retreat center and arrive by 4:30. These are the optimal times.

Sample Departure Plans if Flying:

Leave retreat center immediately after the closing session for 3:10 shuttle to airport; arrive SeaTac at 5:00; earliest recommended flight departure 6:30pm.

OR

Stay to help with cleanup and picnic dinner on glorious Maxwellton Beach. Ride provided to the 8:10 airport shuttle; arrive at SeaTac at 9:30, earliest recommended flight departure 11pm. Or have take shuttle to an airport motel and fly in the morning.

OR

Stay in your room or campsite for an additional night – Ride share to Deborah's house for breakfast Saturday, enjoy Langley and drive home or take taxi to scheduled shuttle.

If you are flying in, make your shuttle reservations at least a week ahead with

Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle. Call 877-679-4003 or reserve online at

<http://www.seatacshuttle.com>. **Your station is the Langley/Clinton stop.** It costs \$43 one-way or round trip for \$86. If you are 60 or older it costs \$41 one-way and \$82 round trip. The one-hour shuttle ride will take you onto the ferry and the island. Also make a reservation with All Island Express Taxi for the short drive from the shuttle stop to Whidbey Institute. You will probably share a taxi with other Gatherers.

To find the Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle at the Airport:

Stay in the baggage claim area and walk to the south end of the terminal. Do not take the escalators or cross over the road to the public transport area. A driver will have your name and be looking for you. If you don't see the driver, step outside the terminal door to find the Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle parked nearby. Please double check shuttle times and departure gate info when you make your reservation to be sure they have not changed.

Alternate Airport Shuttle:

If you are coming in at an odd hour or you miss your shuttle because of flight delays, there is another service called **Shuttle Express 425-981-7000**, which can be used without reservations. To catch this shuttle at the airport you need to find the public transportation section across the sky bridge. Shuttle Express drives all around the mainland and finally drops you at the **Mukilteo Ferry Terminal**. You have to walk on the ferry with your luggage, then take the **All Island Express Taxi 360-841-8294** to Whidbey Institute. The Whidbey Seatac Shuttle is much better if you can use it.

Car Rental at the Airport or Whidbey island:

It would be difficult to spend much extra time on Whidbey Island without a car. It is also a beautiful region to explore, so you might like to plan more of a trip around the Gathering. You can rent a car on Whidbey Island. There is more than one car rental company in the town of Clinton. That is the easiest location to get to if you want to rent on the island, and they can coordinate with the shuttle.

Driving:

Detailed driving instructions from all directions are on the Whidbey Institute website <http://www.whidbeyinstitute.org/s/place/gettinghere/> and in the 'Whidbey Institute Welcome Packet'.

Local Taxi Company:

All Island Express Taxi 360-841-8294. Please note that Whidbey Island does not have ride sharing services like Uber or Lyft. Our local taxi is open 24 hours.

5. LODGING AT WHIDBEY INSTITUTE**Rooms and Cabins:**

You'll be sleeping in a fully restored 19th century farmhouse or in a cabin under tall evergreens. Participants are assigned their choice of lodging on a first come first served basis. Special circumstances may require us to juggle your preferences. You'll learn your room assignment when you arrive. See photos: <http://whidbeyinstitute.org/visiting-the-land/accommodations/>.

The rooms vary in size, from quite small to moderate. Some are more rustic than others. All have shared baths. In some cabins you will walk outside to the bathroom facility nearby. Other new cabins have bathrooms inside shared by two cabins. None of the lodgings have air conditioning, though our summer evenings are usually cool. If you prefer to stay at a B&B, register for the Gathering as an off-site attendee. You must provide your own transportation to and from the B&B.

Physical Restrictions:

Let us know if you have limitations, and we will do our best to put you in a room that is accessible. We have two brand new shared cabins that are designed as handicap accessible, with a handicap accessible bathroom.

Tent Camping:

There is a beautiful camping field close to our meeting space with bathrooms and showers nearby. Bring your own tent, sleeping bag, pad and towel. No vehicle camping or pets allowed. You can arrange to stay off-site if you are in a camping vehicle.

6. EXTENDED STAYS ON WHIDBEY ISLAND and the region

It's a great idea to come early or stay longer on Whidbey Island, or explore the Puget Sound region. We recommend that you minimally take advantage of the extra Friday night stay. If you stay longer, you need a car to get around. Check out car rental companies in Clinton, WA to rent a car for use on the island. There is so much natural beauty in local beaches and forests, plus a cozy old movie theater, antiques, good restaurants and more. Lodging will be booked solid in the summer, so reserve early. Many places require a two-night stay on summer weekends. Our office will not be able to arrange lodging for you before or after our retreat. You can find lots of tourist information online. Explore Whidbey Island Bed and Breakfast Association, visit <http://www.whidbeyislandbandb.com/> or Air BnB <https://www.airbnb.com> or VRBO <https://www.vrbo.com/>. Deception Pass State Park is beautiful if you are prepared to camp. You might hear military planes, though.

7. WHAT TO BRING

The Whidbey Institute Welcome Packet (link included in confirmation letter) has a basic checklist including a flashlight. Please add these items:

- Slippers/heavy socks for use in shoe-less indoor areas

- Light day-pack or shoulder bag to carry materials outside
- Writing journal
- Something ‘celebrational’ to wear — colorful, flowing, and fun garments for our final evening together
- Campers bring a tent, sleeping bag, pad and towel
- Optional - An inspiring book to share in our community library to browse in quiet times
- Optional - Musical or percussion instruments for personal use or to share

8. FOOD

Our meals will begin with Sunday afternoon snacks and dinner at 5:30pm. Our beloved chef Christyn uses fresh, local and organic ingredients. She joyously takes into account most special dietary needs. Meals may include chicken or fish, and there will always be vegetarian and special dietary need options. ***Please indicate them on your registration form.*** You are welcome to bring your own specialty items and can use the Farmhouse fridge for them. Fresh coffee will be available near the Dining Hall around 6:00am.

9. ART MATERIALS

Your tuition fee includes all Touch Drawing materials & mounting supplies you will need during the retreat. If you have a favorite set of supplies you are welcome to bring them to enrich your own coloring. Additional Touch Drawing materials kits, SoulCards, books and music will be available for sale.

10. IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Local Transportation

- Whidbey Seatac Shuttle 877-679-4003 or <http://www.seatacshuttle.com> this is the recommended service to take from the airport. It goes directly to the ferry. Get off at the Langley/Clinton stop. From there take the taxi to Whidbey Institute, less than five minutes drive. Call the taxi before you arrive. You will probably be able to share the ride with other Gatherers who were on the same shuttle.
- All Island Express Taxi 360-841-8294
- Shuttle Express 425-981-7000 (Use only if the Whidbey Seatac Shuttle is unavailable for some reason – late arrival etc. They drive around the region before dropping you off at the ferry terminal. You have to walk on the ferry and take a taxi from the landing dock to Whidbey Institute)

Center for Touch Drawing

- Use Deborah’s cell 360-929-7551 for arrivals & during the week of the Gathering ONLY.
- All other times call 360-221-5745 or email center@touchdrawing.com

Whidbey Institute

- Wifi is available in the main buildings
- Cell service is available but varies depending on your provider and location on the land
- Whidbey Institute Retreat Center 360-341-1884 (Phone picked up 10am-4pm Mon-Fri)
- Thomas the caretaker 360-201-9671 (This is best number for hours the office is not open)
- The Farmhouse 360-341-0969
- Granny’s 360-341-7104