

SPRINGTIME HOME IMPROVEMENT

B SECTION
• WHAT'S ON
• ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hole-in-the-sky gardening — a primer

Learning to cultivate in a woodland paradise



Scott Harris works the ground at the Harbour House Hotel farm. Pat Burkette also creates arable space in a different way on her less hospitable Salt Spring property, as described in the article below.

BY PAT BURKETTE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

For years, I gardened on a prairie city lot, with a neat vegetable patch, flower beds, carefully pruned lilacs and a big green lawn.

But when I moved to Salt Spring, I looked forward to new gardening opportunities. I wanted to do wild and crazy things with plants. I mean, you can grow anything here, right? Like, people grow cantaloupes and olives and bananas here, right?

So what if my new place had a good-for-goats vertical landscape, moss everywhere, honkin' huge firs, cedars and big leaf maples, giant ferns, and soil

"Dry shade" is a swear-word phrase for both garden book writers and plant nursery owners.

that was sand and gravel beneath an icing of forest duff? So what if friends and neighbours stared up at the trees, and told me they'd have to go if I wanted

to actually grow anything here?

"I don't want," I told them, "to turn B.C. into Alberta. Why would I slash, burn and flatten when prairie folk paint stones with a buttermilk mixture to grow moss and truck in fill to create fake hills on their flatlands? Why would I want to change a woodland paradise, which even has that mint plant — see here's one, I'll just rub the leaves to give you the fragrance, ouch, ouch, it's not mint it's a horrible stinging thing — into a suburban lot?"

GARDENING continued on B4

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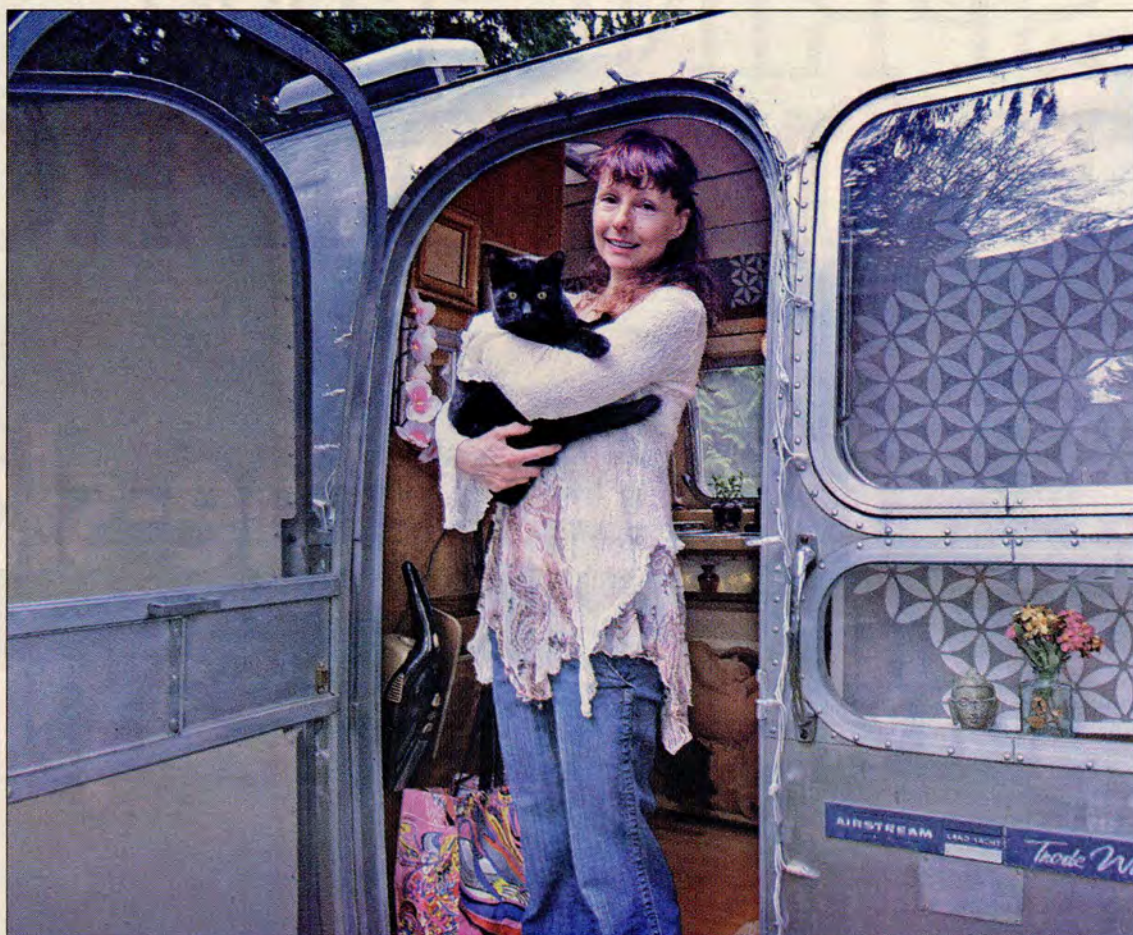
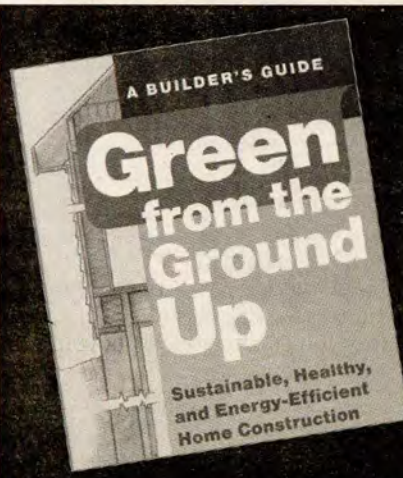


PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Personal fitness trainer Deb LeBlanc stands at the entrance to her fully redecorated 1970s Airstream trailer. See story at right.



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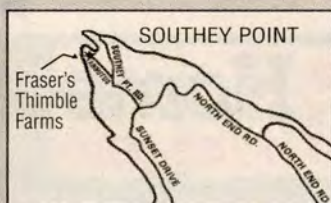
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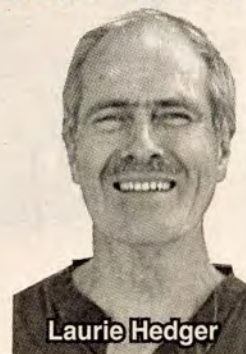
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SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT

SMALL SPACES

Airstream reno proves small is beautiful

Home-owner's 'girly space' pays attention to detail

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In an age when so many folks tout bigger as best and where monster homes define most housing developments, it's sometimes difficult to appreciate the smaller things in life.

Not so for Deb LeBlanc, a personal physical fitness trainer based on Salt Spring Island.

Last fall, LeBlanc was browsing the internet when she happened upon a 1970 Airstream trailer. It had suffered years of neglect, but with a price tag under \$4,000, LeBlanc found the opportunity impossible to resist.

The bullet-like trailer's silver shine has faded somewhat from its glory days in the 1970s, but a strong subculture devoted to all things Airstream is rising up in communities across North America and in numerous internet forums.

"So many people have purchased these old Airstreams and turned them not only into these incredible living spaces but into recording studios and hair-dressing salons and all these other crazy things," LeBlanc said on a recent tour of her new home.

Realizing the significance of her find, LeBlanc quickly arranged to pick up her trailer from a Victoria-area collector and hauled it over to the island.

That's when the real work began.

LeBlanc spent every weekend for four months gutting, varnishing and restoring the trailer's interior.

"It was very woody. Everything was wood: wooden doors, wood panels, wood bed, wood in here and wood everywhere," she said. "It was a guy's typical 1970s trailer, but



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Compact living quarters inside the Airstream means the kitchen counter is never far away. Removing dark wooden cupboard doors helps make a small space appear larger.

I just walked in and saw so much potential."

With the dark wood panelling out the door, LeBlanc focussed on lightening up her new space, a highly effective technique for making small spaces feel less cramped. There's still a great deal of wood in the space, but it's much lighter and far less oppressive.

Plenty of pictures, flowers and statues transformed the once utilitarian travel trailer into a cozy living environment. A creamy-coloured two-person couch, bright pillows and a small chandelier in the living/dining room create a space more akin to an urban lounge than a modest trailer set up on the back 40.

This summer's plans involve setting up some solar panels, installing heaters beneath the floor and polishing the exterior to give the Airstream a sparkling silver sheen.

"I call it my girly space," she said. "I feel more relaxed [in a small home] and all of my girlfriends that have come in here are 'mad' about it."

The total living space may be a mere 350 square feet but LeBlanc's Airstream features all the modern amenities one needs in a small island home. There's a fridge, sink, solid wood desk, surround-sound stereo system, propane-fueled furnace and fully equipped washroom.

LeBlanc said her home is the perfect fit for her lifestyle. She can even accommodate

the occasional guest, though visitors pushing six feet are advised to keep their heads down.

For people just starting out with a dream of Airstream living, renovating is often the only way to go. The new generation of Airstreams start at \$60,000 for the smallest 16-foot "Bambi" models. LeBlanc's 1970 model was also the last year Airstream trailers featured a predominantly wooden interior as opposed to the chrome used today.

"It was a guy's typical 1970s trailer, but I just walked in and saw so much potential."

DEB LEBLANC
Airstream dweller

Regardless of how cool the trailers may look, however, potential owners must have an appreciation for life on a significantly smaller scale.

"When I walk into a small space that I've done up with all my things around me and all my decorating and all the little touches, it all just hits me instantly," she said. "Who knows? Maybe I was swaddled a lot when I was a baby. I love the intimate space. I love the roundness of it. I love small spaces and I've always loved Airstreams."

A smaller space is also easier to keep clean, easier to decorate and easier to redecorate on a whim, LeBlanc adds.

"If you like small spaces, you can make them whatever you want to make them and the best part is you can go wherever you want. Away you go and you've got your little home."

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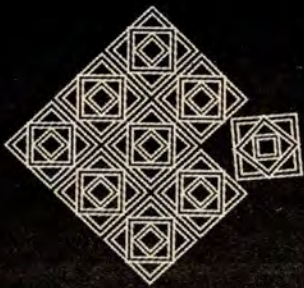
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Hole-in-the-sky gardening

GARDENING

continued from B1

"The sun, the sun," my visitors hissed impatiently. They inched away from the horrible stinging things and gazed worshipfully toward the orb to which all green thumbs are raised in awe.

"Nonsense," I said stubbornly. "There's enough sun. I'm not cutting down all those trees. I'm not taking out all those ferns. I will garden around them."

And so I did. In some of my gardening around tree spots, there were big old rotting logs and stumps. I got to work, sweating and swinging. I soon discovered the trees once attached to the stumps had gone down with smiles on their bark. The stumps had amazing, tenacious rosey roots that formed a lifeline for a gardener heading for China. The rosey roots were a warning, of course, but I ignored it. I was happy in my work, eating twice my usual amount of food and lots of dessert, with no need to buy larger sized clothes.

As soon as I eked out a few patches, I planted, willy nilly. Sure, I told myself, you've got a lot of shade, but there are plenty of things that grow in shade. I planted rhododendrons. You can't grow those in Alberta, I thought.

I planted hydrangeas. You can't grow those in Alberta, I thought. In the cleared spots near the house, I planted some peas and beans and tomatoes. I planted the raspberry canes I had carefully dug up and brought from Alberta.

I watered and waited. I heaped on compost. I watered a lot more. No matter how much I watered, the thin soil turned

to dust immediately and leaves yellowed and fell. Tomato plants became beanpoles. Plants which gardening books listed as shade tolerant, like fuschia, viburnum, hosta and astilbe, sat there miserably. Thug plants, like periwinkle, immediately grabbed the advantage and ran rampant, choking out their weaker pals. A lot of stuff died, but I was reborn into a hole-in-the-sky gardener.

A hole-in-the-sky gardener is someone who learns to garden around trees by first looking up, not down.

You'll see the hole-in-the-sky gardener, walking around a well-treed property, then gazing up at the tree canopy. She's looking for a place where there are no leaves or branches, just patches of grey or blue. When she finds those places, she unkinks her neck, pulls out her trusty shovel and digs. She's observed there's surviving, even thriving, beneath a break in the forest canopy, where a plant has the chance to get not only light but rain, which they're going to need, along with any other water they can get, because, of course, of the ravenous rosey roots, that suck up moisture for a mile.

A hole-in-the-sky gardener learns that when the books say "shade," they don't mean shade under trees, i.e., dry shade. "Dry shade" is a swear-word phrase for both garden book writers and plant nursery owners. When you say dry shade to some nursery owners, they look like they just took a bite out of a lemon, then lead you to a corner where they've put the gardeners who say they want plants the deer won't eat. Then the nursery own-

ers run out into the sun where the roses are blooming and the customers thronging.

A hole-in-the-sky gardener learns to find and put the tough stuff, like oxalis (better known as the plant that will not die, even when you want it to), near trees, while placing the least shade-tolerant plants under the biggest holes in the sky. A hole-in-the-sky gardener learns to mimic nature.

When my tree canopy is bare, in early spring, I can enjoy all the hellebores, daffodils, tulips and pulmonarias I've planted, which thrive under seasonally superior big holes in the sky.

As well, as a hole-in-the-sky gardener, I've learned not to flinch when someone spots a new plant in the back of my van, peers in and says, "Why did you buy that? That's a weed. The flower is nothing."

The hole-in-the-sky gardener must grin and bear it while seizing all conversational openings that might lead to vegetable gardening on other gardeners' territories, because when it comes to veggies, the people hissing about the sun were right.

When a sun gardener says sympathetic things about shade gardening, I've been known to say something like "Yeah it would be great to have a spot for some vegetables."

I know that when it comes to growing food, hole-in-the-sky gardeners must be willing to morph into gypsy gardeners. But most of us are willing to get out the bicycles, because even with a lovely woodland and eclectic plant collection, we've had to face the fact that we may not be able to have our cantaloupes and eat them too.

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RENOVATIONS



"Before" shot of a bathroom about to undergo major renovation.

Finishing what you start: one home reno challenge

Do-it-yourselfer's advice

The Driftwood found a hard-at-work non-commercial renovator willing to share some of his experience and before-and-after photos with a recent personal project (although he requested anonymity so he doesn't have to talk about it when he's shopping at the grocery store!)

Q. What is the most important thing to keep in mind when embarking on a reno project?

A. Sticking with a budget and hoping that when you start to tear out the old that the surprises won't be too costly. Have a vision!

Q. What are three good places to start when considering a home renovation?

A. Kitchen and bathroom;

plumbing and electrical upgrades; making sure you have well-skilled tradesmen to help with the process.

Q. What kind of work did you do on the house?

A. Bathroom renovation; installed hardwood floors; and repainted and prepared the house's exterior for staining in good weather.

RENOVATION continued on B7

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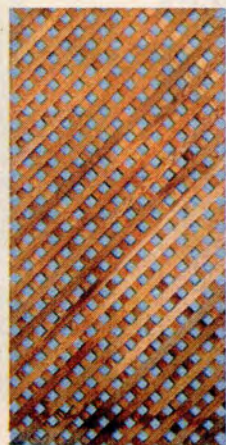
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When conducted by a professional, a home inspection covers about 1,000 check-points in approximately 400 items around the home. Findings should be provided to you in the form of a comprehensive report. It is vital that such a report include an objec-

tive evaluation of the condition of the home, clearly relating existing defects and indicating potential problems.

A home inspection report is not a warranty.

Because a home inspection is a visual examination of the home and operating systems, it is not technically exhaustive.

There is no assurance, expressed or implied, that equipment will not break down at some future date. However, such protection is available when a home inspection is complemented by a home warranty.

When the services are used in conjunction with one another, a home warranty covers the items that were serviceable at the time of the inspection and subsequently fail due to normal wear and tear.

A home inspection does not detect every conceivable flaw.

It is an inspection of those areas and items that can be seen. Home inspectors cannot see through foundations, floors or walls, and cannot inspect areas or items that are inaccessible.

A home inspection benefits all parties involved in a real estate transaction. Further information is available online at www.amerispec.ca.

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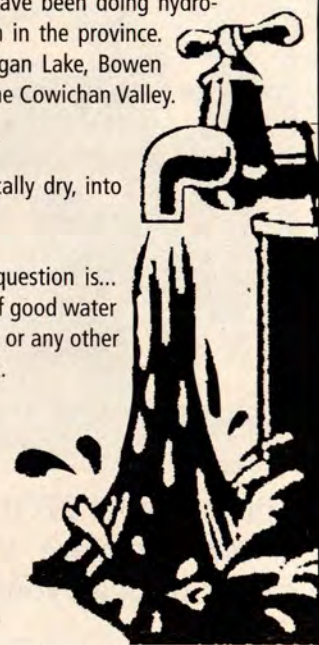
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"After" view of the renovated bathroom — about 90 per cent complete.

Reno reflections

RENOVATION

continued from B6

Q. What was the most difficult part of the process?

A. Keeping on budget; timing with tradesmen and co-ordinating the chronological order of priorities; making time and juggling the demands of my personal life.

Q. How long did the renovation take?

A. Between two and three months.

Q. What's next?

A. What is most important is to finish everything that one starts, including that last piece of trim. Cleaning up the dust. Enjoying the labours and your efforts.

HOT TUBS

Some tips for safe soaking

Health and safety

Hot tubs are a great way to relax, renew your spirits and escape from your cares and worries. However, there are certain precautions you should take to ensure that your hot tub experience is a safe one.

First, check the water temperature before entering the hot tub. It should be at a maximum of 40°C (104°F). You should also limit the amount of time you spend in the water to 10 – 15 minute intervals with cool down periods in between to avoid becoming overheated.

Never allow children to use a hot tub without adult supervision and maintain constant eye contact with children when they are around a spa or hot tub.

Never use a hot tub while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs such as antihistamines, tranquilizers or anticoagulants that may cause drowsiness or increase/decrease blood temperature.

Consult with your doctor before using a hot tub if you have heart disease, high or low blood pressure, are pregnant, or have any serious illness.

Make sure the entry and exit areas around the hot tub are slip-resistant and have good deck drainage and remove any vegetation or other obstacles that can impede your view of the hot tub or spa.

Keep toys stored away that could encourage a child to enter the water. Do not allow horseplay or roughhousing around a spa or hot tub that can lead to slips, falls or injury.

Never use a spa or hot tub with a drain cover or grate that is loose or broken and make sure the hot tub is protected by a rigid safety cover that locks shut to prevent unauthorized use.

Installing a permanent fence in your backyard is recommended to prevent children, pets and unauthorized users from entering your property and using your hot tub. Sliding glass doors and other entrances to the hot tub area should also have self-closing, self-latching mechanisms.

For more information on spa and hot tub safety, contact the Pool & Hot Tub Council of Canada at 1-800-879-7066 or visit its website at www.poolcouncil.ca.

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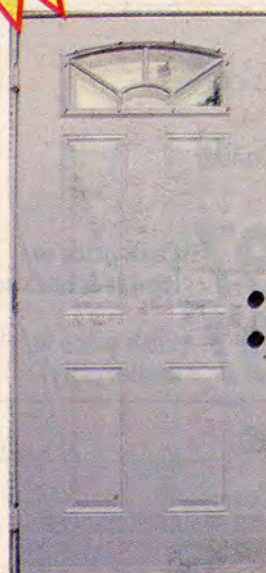


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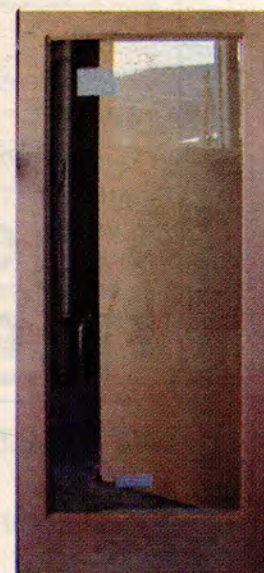


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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Alexis Hunter may or may not know that "April showers bring May flowers."

REGULATION

Home inspector licensing in effect

As of March 31, home inspectors must be licensed to begin or continue operating in B.C. As announced on Jan. 30, British Columbia has become the first Canadian jurisdiction to regulate home inspectors to better protect buyers and ensure qualified inspections.

"A home is the single biggest investment many people make, and an incorrect or misleading report from an unqualified home inspector can lead to considerable financial risk," states a press release from the solicitor general's office.

The Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority (BPCPA) is responsible for licensing and will help protect buyers' interests by:

- Assessing home inspectors' qualifications.
- Receiving and responding to consumers' complaints.
- Monitoring compliance through inspections and enforcement, and imposing penalties of up to \$5,000 where appropriate.

To become licensed, home inspectors must meet the qualifications of the Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors - BC branch, the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia, or the National Certification Program for Home and Property Inspectors.

Home inspectors will also need liability insurance and a criminal record check. Licensed home inspectors will carry a wallet-sized licence issued by the BPCPA.



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What's On This Week

Wed.
April 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Selvaggi Trio.

One of the U.S.'s brightest young chamber groups. ArtSpring. 8 p.m. Pre-concert chat at 7 p.m.

Earth Day Cabaret.

Music and performance to celebrate the Earth. GISS multi-purpose room. 7 p.m.

Simply Organic.

Free organic recital at All Saints. Followed by muffin & coffee/tea for \$2. 10:10 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Peaceworks!

Earth Day celebration for school children. Salt Spring Centre of Yoga Pond Dome. 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Garden Club.

Speaker is rhodo expert Bill McMillan. Meaden Hall. 7 p.m.

Thurs.
April 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Steph Rhodes, Matt Johnson & Russ DiCapprio. Rock covers and originals at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Killer Whales of the Salish Sea.

A SSI Conservancy fundraising presentation by Howard Garrett and Susan Berta, co-founders of Orca Network. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Hiking on Salt Spring Island.

Slide show by Lynn Thompson at SS Trail and Nature Club social evening. United Church. 7:30 p.m. Non-members welcome.

Liquid Waste Open House.

CRD staff presentation about a pilot composting operation. Harbour House. 7:30 p.m.

Meat Meeting. Guest speaker Frank Moreland speaks to sheep breeders and other meat producers. Farmers Institute. 7 p.m.

Tantric Yoga For Women.

Pay what you can Thursdays with Kristin at Core Inn, third floor. 4:30-6 p.m.

Fri.
April 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ray Newman Night. Multi-performer jazz evening and fundraiser for Ray Newman Fund for youth music. Cafe El Zocalo. 7-10 p.m.

Vacuity. Ontario rock band plays at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

African-themed Dinner. GISS Global Awareness Group fundraising dinner for HIV-positive youth in Nairobi. GISS multi-purpose room. 6:30 p.m.

Wilderness Adventure and Primitive Skills for Kids. New series of Friday sessions begins today. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Wisdom of the Earth 653-9122 or e-mail instinct@saltspring.com

Nature Zodiac Tour. Leaves Ganges Harbour at 10 a.m. SSI Conservancy fundraiser. Reserve at 250-538-0318.

Red Tent Women's Circle. How to get the job done with maximum satisfaction. An intentional gathering for women of all ages. Arbutus Therapy Centre. 7 p.m. Info: Rasma, 250-931-2269.

Yoga for Everyone. Pay what you can Fridays with Kristin at Core Inn, 3rd floor. 4:30-6 p.m.

Sat.
April 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Rhythm & Rags.

Salt Spring Concert Band show featuring professional marimba player Luanne Katz. ArtSpring. 8 p.m.

Ray Newman Night.

Second multi-performer jazz evening and fundraiser for Ray Newman Fund for youth music. Cafe El Zocalo. 7-10 p.m.

Vacuity. Ontario rock band plays at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Liquid Stranger. Interchill Records presents Sweden-based electronic music performer. Beaver Point Hall. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Youth Soccer Tourney.

40-plus soccer teams play on seven Salt Spring fields.

SOLID Slide Show.

And discussion about islanders' journeys to and work in Kenya, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. Ango Retreat. 7:30 p.m. Admission by donation.

Sat.
April 25

ACTIVITIES

Garden Club Spring Plant Sale.

Farmers Institute. 1 p.m. sharp.

2009 Slasher Skateboard Race.

Downhill longboard races at Juniper Place. From 10 a.m.

Nature Zodiac Tour.

Reserve at 250-538-0318.

The First Five Pages.

Free writers' workshop at library with Phyllis Smallman. Info: 250-537-4666.

Sun.
April 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Barley Brothers.

Still Alive and un-plugged. Every Sunday at Fulford Inn. 6:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Duck Creek Farm Tours.

Earth Week activity at 134 Tripp Road. 1 p.m.

New Moon Float.

Warm water, relaxed lighting and beautiful meditative music. Rainbow Road Pool. 7:30 p.m.

Youth Soccer Tourney.

40-plus soccer teams play on seven Salt Spring fields.

Nature Zodiac Tour.

Reserve at 250-538-0318.

Mon.
April 27

ACTIVITIES

BC-STV Info Session.

With Citizens' Assembly member Diana Byford and short film. GISS multi-purpose room. 7-8:30 p.m.

Issues in Fulford.

Public meeting with Fulford Study Group. OAP Room. Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Hans Plomp Author Reading.

Visiting Dutch writer reads from Tantric Picnic, Tales of India. ArtSpring gallery. 7 p.m.

Tues.
April 28

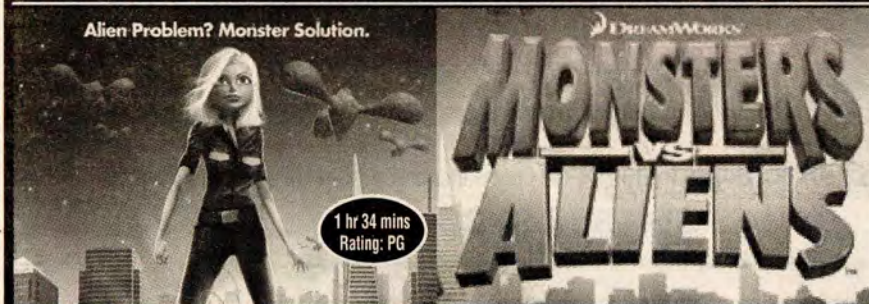
ACTIVITIES

GISS PAC Meeting.

Gulf Islands Secondary School library, 7 p.m.

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The Gulf Islands Driftwood has joined a network of B.C. community newspapers for presenting its online content. The improved, larger website offers more content, including breaking news from around the province, plus more stories from the Driftwood's weekly print edition, including news, features, sports, entertainment and letters to the editor. You can also find your favourite Driftwood publications on our improved website, including the Gulf Islands Real Estate Magazine and the popular Aqua - Gulf Islands Living magazine.

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The new **Star Trek** film opens at The Fritz May 8th!!!

CABLE TV

• **Attention Shaw Cable TV Channel 11 viewers** — The Daily is your source for stories reflecting southern Vancouver Island people and places. The program is about half an hour in length and repeats continuously during the day and evening with new stories added daily.

EXHIBITIONS

- **The Rites of Spring.** Salt Spring Island Painters Guild annual show and sale. Daily at ArtSpring from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until April 28.
- **An Immense and Unexpected Field of View** — Works on paper by Jamie Callum Macaulay runs at Salt Spring Books until May 15.
- **Cody Conner** shows oil paintings at Island Savings until the end of May.
- **Shari Macdonald** shows new photos at Jana's Bake Shop.


Jonathan Newmark, M.D.

and the Salt Spring Chamber Players present a concert program and lecture on composers and their neurological disorders.

All Saints

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Arts & Entertainment

THEATRE REVIEW



Jesse Grindler, Franz Heinrich, Lulu Fulford and Prairie Moat get carried away at the GISS Improv show.

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

Youth improv teams find solid footing

Boring Horn stays silent for adventurous performers

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Energy levels were near the top of the scale and the laughter infectious at the improvisation showcase held at ArtSpring last week — and that was before the scenes had even started.

The evening was a final performance for the current Gulf Islands Secondary School senior team, and as an added bonus also featured the Grade 8/Grade 9 SIMS/GISS junior team and veterans from the alumni.

As high school coach Jason Donaldson said at the beginning of the night, with such enthusiastic participation at all levels, improv on the island is “in really great shape.” Students in Grade 8 participated with those who had graduated up to three years ago and all were obviously in love with the activity.

In an exhibition rather than competitive event, the teams performed exercises from the Canadian Improv Game Scenes

capped at three to four minutes, and theatre sports and open scenes whose lengths were determined by their worthiness according to the coaches.

Erin Jory, mom of junior team member Nicole Jory, was assigned the task of holding the Boring Horn, with strict instructions to put scenes to an end if she wasn't laughing. The only occasions on which the horn was put to use, however, were when the coaches took too long explaining the rules or finding a prop.

The first exercise was a mixed event starting with two players from any of the teams, with two members from the juniors being the first to volunteer. The game called for the first two to start a scene and for others to pick an individual and take up his or her exact physical position and then change the scene. Players rapidly moved between ideas, ranging from a marriage proposal to a lesson in how to massage a tiger, and from the Macarena to a mad scientist.

The quick momentum established the propulsion for the night.

The senior team was first up as a group, asking the audience for

“an uncommon noun such as ice cave” and promising to use the “international trade language of Esperanto.” For their noun they got the word albatross and the instructions that the scene could not involve the Ancient Mariner. Not surprisingly, with an albatross involved, this was pretty hard, but the seniors pulled it off.

“Oh my god, the dinosaurs are so frickin' nice!”

The junior team's first group effort saw them taking a random fortune cookie message for inspiration. This turned out to be: “Keep your plans secret for now.”

The team wrapped the message into the story of a broke family whose father wins the lottery and tries to keep the news to himself. With the largest team at eight members, the juniors did a good job of having everyone participate and keeping the story going.

The alumni asked the audience to give them a story idea about anything at all and ended up trying to answer the question of

“what happened to all the dinosaurs.” Despite graduating in various years and presumably taking on other interests in their post-GISS lives, the alumni team proved how well an experienced team can bounce ideas and energy between the members.

A very involved story took two scientists back in time aboard a time machine. Not only was the dialogue hilarious (“Oh my god, the dinosaurs are so frickin' nice!”), the actors wrapped the scene by answering the question. Individually, you could see on all the performers' faces just how much they enjoyed being back in that milieu.

While a few of the scenes could possibly have benefitted from the Boring Horn (the alumni's “1,000 cats” scene was a rare miss) the majority of the night was right on track. Alex Corley's quick coining of “alcoholomist” to describe an alchemist who had “taken to the drink” is a prime example of the creativity that can arise in the moment.

With such a lot of performers sharing the stage, however, there were some who didn't seem to contribute as much throughout the evening. Having eight

students on the junior team, for example, might make it difficult for everyone to find room to participate.

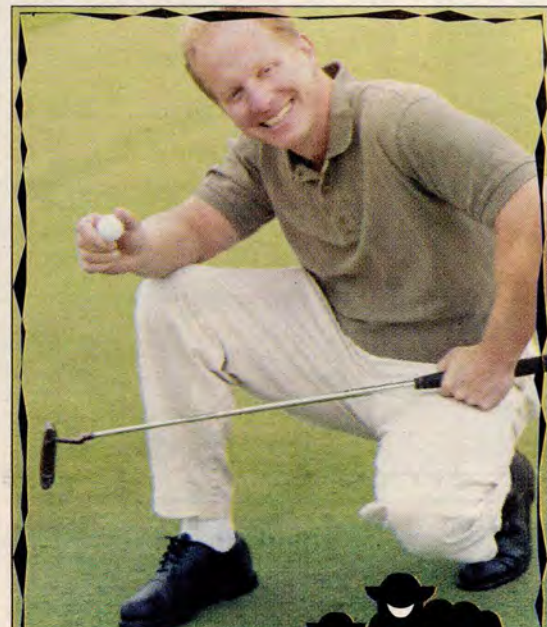
But all of the performers had to recover from a bizarre incident with a drunken ticket holder who managed to slip into the theatre between scenes. After the intruder was calmly escorted outside by one of the alumni, the show went on so seamlessly that much of the audience thought it was all part of the act.

Their ability to continue on and keep the audience laughing proves that performers from all levels are truly professional.

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Salt Spring Chamber Players



Saturday, May 2, 3:00 p.m.
All Saints by the Sea

Jim and Laurie Stubbs present a chamber music concert including the music of Ludwig van Beethoven, Max Bruch, the Brazilian composer Francisco Mignone and Jonathan Newmark. Newmark, composer / pianist / world renowned neurologist, will also give a lecture/demonstration of neurological disorders through the music of select composers.

Tickets at the Door \$15 ea.



Saturday, May 2 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m.
ArtSpring 537-2102



director Mitch Howard
conductor Deb Toole
accompanist Jennifer Howard

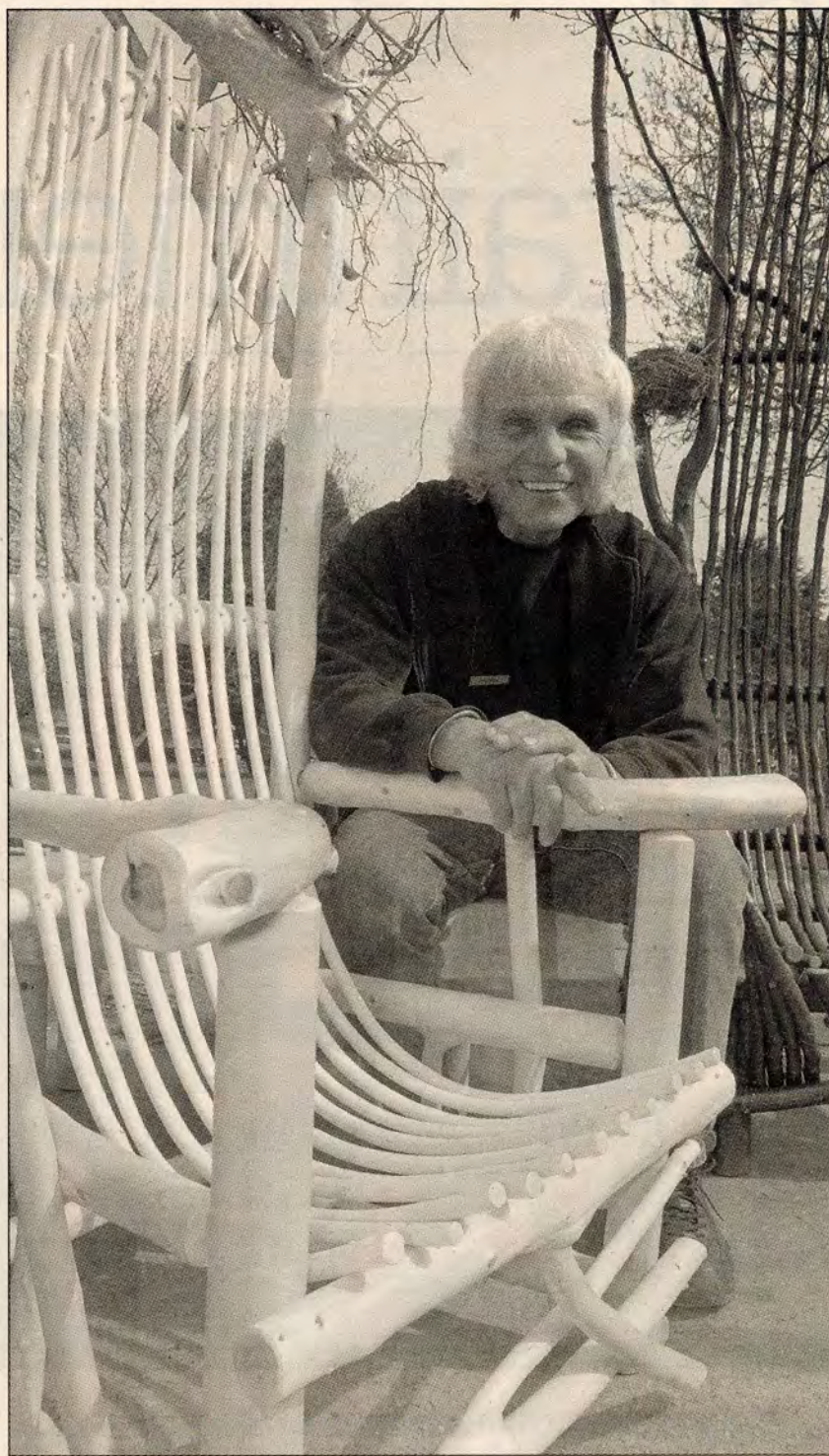
Tickets: Adult \$15 Senior \$12
Child under 12 \$8 EyeGo \$5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

HAVE A SEAT:

Tom Jahn is seen with his natural furniture at the Saturday market in Centennial Park.



PUB MUSIC

Vacuity hits the western shore at Moby's

And Russ, Steph & Matt perform Thursday

Moby's opens its doors for some Ontario visitors this weekend, as rock band Vacuity gets a taste of island life.

Vacuity members have been travelling across the country from Toronto since last month, with Salt Spring the western-most stop on the tour. See www.vacuity.net for more information and music samples.

Cover charge is \$5, which is waived as usual for those who come in early for dinner.

On Thursday, April 23, island favourites Steph Rhodes, Matt Johnson and Russ DiCapprio take the stage, beginning at 8 p.m., with no cover charge.

Sunset Farm
Sandy Robely

photo solution: John Cameron
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VISITING PERFORMERS

Grace Fong back by demand with acclaimed Selvaggi Trio

Haydn, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn performed tonight at ArtSpring

ArtSpring finishes its winter music programming on Wednesday, April 22 with a fine American piano trio called the Selvaggi Trio, composed of pianist Grace Fong, cellist Patrick Jee and violinist Jun Iwasaki.

"Those who attended ArtSpring's first piano festival in spring 2007 will remember Grace Fong as a brilliant pianist who captivated the audience with her charm and virtuosity," said ArtSpring executive director George Sipos.

"Many of our audience asked us immediately after Grace's recital to bring her back at the earliest opportunity, and here she now is, together with a trio of brilliant young fellow musicians."

Fong first came to the attention of Salt Spring's Simon Rook who heard her prize-winning performance at the Leeds Piano Competition in 2006. Since her first ArtSpring visit Grace has gone on to become director of keyboard studies and assistant professor of piano at the Chapman Uni-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Selvaggi Trio

versity Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles.

Iwasaki is concertmaster with the Oregon Symphony and Jee is assistant principal cello with the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

At ArtSpring they will play three impressive trios by Haydn, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn.

"What a great overview of music," said Sipos.

"Haydn, the benign grandfather of classical form, Mendelssohn the high Romantic and the incredible genius Shostakovich whose entire musical career was tortured by the pres-

ures of Stalinism and its bizarre self-inflicted tensions between formalism and realism.

"Anyone who thinks chamber music is all about grace and deft intellectualism must listen to this second Shostakovich trio. Nothing beats the visceral momentum of its final movement, the raw existential heartbeat of three instruments struggling for the soul of history. Wow."

The concert starts at 8 p.m. with a pre-concert chat at 7 p.m.

Tickets are still available from the ArtSpring ticket centre at 250-537-2102.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MUSICAL GROUPS



Director Deb Toole and accompanist Jennifer Howard lead the Salt Spring Singers in a rehearsal.

SS Singers celebrate 35 years of music-making... and fun

Made on Salt Spring choir gears up for Made in Canada concert

BY MEGHAN HOWCROFT
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

My, how time flies. Can it really be 35 years since the inception of the Salt Spring Singers, one of the island's most popular and longest-running choirs?

As I sift through no less than six jam-packed photo albums, filled with clippings, old programs and photos depicting beehive hairdos and pointy glasses, I find myself also thinking about how much times have changed.

But for the Salt Spring Singers (of which I am a proud member), there are some things that never change. A spirit of camaraderie and love of music are the two ingredients that have kept the Singers cookin' for more years than I've been on this earth. And for their upcoming spring concert entitled Made in Canada, audiences can expect more of the same winning recipe.

Formed in 1974 with an official membership of 27, the Salt Spring Singers were soon hosting two major concerts a year, creating a tradition of song that islanders could look forward to with eager anticipation.

A 1974 Driftwood press clipping notes that the original purpose of the Singers was to "have fun singing together, and maybe learn something in the process." Indeed, 35 years later, with a membership of 63, the organization holds to the same purpose.

Flipping through the yellowed clippings, I chuckle at the repeated ads boldly stating "Men Wanted," thinking that some things have changed after all. Although it may have been difficult to attract male singers in the past, in 2009 we're rocking close to 20 male voices, who definitely round out the choir's sound (while also making rehearsals much more interesting!).

It seems that community

involvement has always been a part of the choir's repertoire. Nowadays the choir helps students, choir members and those in the community with its coveted scholarship program, besides bringing a real sense of family and friendship to all of its members.

Jean Brouard, current president of the Salt Spring Singers executive, explains, "Music is a great gift. You really can't do it unless you get along — so when we put on a show we're telling everyone, it's great to get along. I believe that 35 years from now in 2044, the Salt Spring Singers will still be here."

Over the years, the Singers have moved through many dedicated directors and conductors, starting with founding member Ruth Barker, May George, Joy Johnsen, Lloyd English, Wendy Milton, Bruce Smith and the choir's current director Mitch Howard. While Howard has been recovering from illness over the past two sessions (supported by the choir every step of the way), the Singers have had the pleasure of singing under the baton of islander Deb Toole, whose energy and enthusiasm know no limits.

The group has been learning plenty of new vocal techniques and after rehearsals, if our tummy muscles aren't aching from extended vocal warm-ups, they're definitely aching from laughter at Toole's hilarious antics.

Toole loves that the choir is so representative of a vast cross-section of our community.

"To have the opportunity to rub shoulders with your neighbour whose political views you may not share and set that aside to communicate through song is a wonderful thing," she says.

Conducting a group ranging in age from 17 to... let's just say 'over 17,' is not without its challenges, but Toole has enjoyed the experience more than expected.

"My motive for leading the choir was to help my friend Mitch. What I didn't anticipate was how much I loved doing the gig!"

Howard and his wife Jennifer (the choir's much-loved accompanist) selected the repertoire for the upcoming Made in Canada show, taking place at ArtSpring on May 2 and 3. The concert will be a celebration of Canadian music, songwriters and arrangers and will include popular tunes such as Four Strong Winds, Hallelujah and O Siem.

"To have the opportunity to rub shoulders with your neighbour whose political views you may not share and set that aside to communicate through song is a wonderful thing."

DEB TOOLE
Director

Whether the songs are classical, jazz, pop, religious, Canadian or otherwise, as is mentioned in a 1985 Driftwood review, "The Salt Spring Singers perform for one reason — it's a lot of fun." The members find such joy in singing, they never cease to infect the crowd with the same sense of optimism and delight.

For 35 years the smiles and twinkling eyes of the Singers have bridged the gap between stage and audience, welcoming the crowd into their family of song. This May, be sure that you are part of the camaraderie in what could be one of the best Singers' concerts in 35 years.

Tickets are available at the ArtSpring ticket centre at 250-537-2102.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

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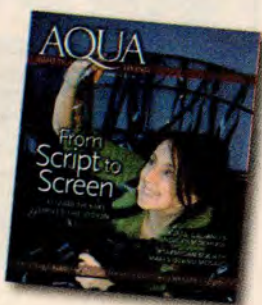
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

AUTHOR READING

India memoir focus of visiting author evening

Tantric Picnic, Tales of India just published by B.C. company

Dutch author Hans Plomp launches his Canadian book tour with an event at the ArtSpring gallery on Monday night.

Plomp will read from *Tantric Picnic, Tales of India* at the April 27 event that begins at 7 p.m.

Tantric Picnic, just published by B.C.'s Ekstasis Editions, is an insightful memoir of experiences and adventures on the astonishing sub-continent of India and has sold 50 thousand copies in Holland, explains a press release. The great Polish writer Richard Kapucinsky called it "one of the best books on India he'd ever read."

Plomp has published 30 books, including novels, short stories and essays. Some of his English poems were published in *City Lights Pocket Poets Series #42: Nine Dutch Poets*. He's travelled extensively, especially in India, where he spent some five years. In 1982 he toured the U.S. with a group of Dutch poets, performing with Anne Waldman, Diana di Prima, Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso and others.

Born in Amsterdam in 1944, he participated in "a period of magical change." He took an active part in the playful Dutch Provo Revolution of the 1960s, including the White Bicycle movement. In 1973 he saved a village and founded an artists' colony with friends and kindred spirits in Ruigoord, a place destined to be demolished for Amsterdam's ever-expanding industries.

In addition, he continues to organize literary events and the annual "Fiery Tongues" festivals of poetry and music at Ruigoord.

As Plomp states in his introduction, "India is a time machine where travellers encounter realities and cultures that people in the West know only from history, mythology and fairy tales..."

The reading at ArtSpring is free.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

EARTH MUSIC: Billie Woods entertains in Centennial Park as part of last weekend's Earth Day celebrations.

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A special spring celebration in the April 29 edition of *The Driftwood*. Photos and payment of \$12.99 plus GST must be received in our office, no later than Thursday, April 23.

All grandkids featured will be entered in a random draw for:

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FUNDRAISERS

Arts scholarship needs help to keep it running

Williamson fundraiser aids performing arts students

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

For 10 years GISS students preparing for a career in the performing arts have benefitted from the Mary and Harry Williamson Scholarship.

Friends of Mary dedicated the award in her honour after the popular island comedienne and Hysterical Society alumni passed away.

The scholarship's continuing existence is in jeopardy, however, unless its organizers can find immediate assistance. Jill Tarswell and Dawn Luker have produced the annual fundraising event in support of the scholarship for the last four or five years, but this year neither has the time nor energy to continue as principal volunteers.

"We're totally willing to work on it, but we just don't have the jam to do it all," Tarswell said of the event.

The evening showcases applicants' talents to the community and provides an opportunity for judges to see their work before choosing a recipient.

A performance date for this year's show has already been booked at Mahon Hall for the evening of May 30. To make it happen, however, volunteers will need to step forward to fill positions such as stage management, concession, ad sales, program production, publicity, sound and lighting.

Last year a silent auction held at the showcase event proved the necessary ingredient to meet the goal of \$1,000. An organizer for that portion will also be required.

While the list of jobs can seem daunting at first, people are already volunteering, Tarswell said.

"I've been hearing from enough people that the interest is definitely there. It's just organizing everyone and working it out."

Perhaps even more important will be finding a core team that will take responsibility for running the scholarship in the future.

"We need to think of the future of the award, and plan some kind of follow-through."

JILL TARSWELL
Scholarship organizer

"Putting on the show isn't such a huge, huge job," Tarswell explained.

"We need to think of the future of the award, and plan some kind of follow-through. We feel that people need to come forward and form a committee or a board to make sure the scholarship carries on."

Teachers such as GISS theatre coach Jason Donaldson have spoken of the scholarship's importance to arts students, saying it would be a shame to lose the opportunity.

The 2008 recipient, Hannah Everest, is currently studying dance at the Arts Umbrella in Vancouver. She'll be able to access her funds once she enrolls in a BFA program in dance and writing this fall.

To volunteer to help run the scholarship or the showcase event, contact Tarswell at 250-537-0675 or jilstar@telus.net, or Luker at 250-537-5115 or etcsaltspring@yahoo.ca.

YOUTH ARTS

Arts academy kids share talent at May 2 fundraiser

Bursary fund, computers and editing equipment needed

An evening of kid-powered entertainment with a silent auction and lots of goodies to munch on is on order for a fundraiser benefitting the Salt Spring Arts Academy on Saturday, May 2.

At Mahon Hall, academy kids will showcase their work from over the past year to collect money for a bursary fund and to buy computers and editing equipment for the media classes.

The entertainment includes Let's Make a Movie Workshop students premiering their movie called *The Purse Snatcher*.

Vocal Improv Choir and Your Natural Voice students have an exciting showcase of what they have been working on to share with the audience.

The Explorations in Dance class will entertain guests with *Roxy*, a Broadway dance choreographed by Sue Newman.

Aina Yasue and Ruby Barnard have been working on a lovely ballet duet with instructor Lisa Hall.

Monica George will perform a solo hip-hop number and the character ballet class will wow audience members with an energetic piece of Ukrainian dance in full costume.

Acoustic Planet alumni students of Bob Delion's School of Rock — *Small Dogs at Large* and *Gel* — will round out the evening with a concert/dance to end the fundraiser.

The academy has had a successful start, boasting more than 100 students enrolled in various dance and voice programs and over 50 students in various workshops.

The academy enjoys the support of the Salt Spring Arts Council and The Shine Program and hopes to scoop a few new supporters in the future.

Anyone wishing to donate to the silent auction or simply to the school can contact the office at 250-537-4294.

Doors for the fundraiser open at 6 p.m.



Dancers Aina Yasue and Ruby Barnard rehearse for an upcoming fundraising performance.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

MUSIC

Celebrated composer appears with SS Chamber Players

Stubbs host
Jonathan Newmark

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Professional musicians Jim and Laurie Stubbs continue to share their talent with local audiences through a series of chamber music concerts.

The latest offering from the Salt Spring Chamber Players will bring music lovers more interesting selections for piano, trumpet and bassoon as the Stubbs are joined by guest pianist Jonathan Newmark on Saturday, May 2 at All Saints By-the-Sea.

Newmark is a composer and musician whom the Stubbs have known for 25

years through the prestigious Chamber Music Conference of the East in Bennington, Vermont.

The couple knew their friend primarily as a musician, and only recently learned that his extensive career as a neurologist brings him to a yearly lecture at a Seattle medical conference.

Such proximity allowed the Stubbs to bring Newmark north.

With a resume that stretches to over 15 pages of awards and publications, the Stubbs thought they should reduce Newmark's recommendation to just a few words.

"He's a tremendous composer, a wonderful pianist, and a great violist — and he's

as diversified in his medical career as he is in his music," said Jim Stubbs.

Newmark's two passions will come together during the Salt Spring concert when he shares a lecture demonstration, on piano, of the neurological disorders of various composers and how this affected their composing styles.

The lecture will include Robert and Clara Schumann, Rachmaninov, Scarlatti, Frederick Delius, Randall Thompson and perhaps Glenn Gould as an added Canadian touch.

In addition to the lecture, the audience will hear a varied program suitable for the unusual combination

of trumpet, bassoon and piano.

This will include the music of composers Max Bruch, Shostakovich and the Brazilian Francisco Mignone.

Jim Stubbs will play the Canadian premiere of an elegy written by Newmark for a mutual friend, a doctor and French horn player who was mugged and killed while walking home in New York City.

Originally written for French horn, Stubbs will play the piece on flugelhorn.

The afternoon concert, which begins at 3 p.m., will conclude with the trio playing Beethoven.

Admission is \$15 at the door.

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Rhythm & Rags

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Saturday, April 25, 8:00 pm
at ArtSpring

JAZZ

Ray Newman Nights: nostalgia, fine food and some great music

Annual school music fundraising
evenings at Cafe El Zocalo

Ten years ago on April 24, lifelong musician Ray Newman was getting ready for a gig at Moby's Pub, but never made it due to heart failure.

In honour of him, his music and young music makers, Cafe El Zocalo will host Ray Newman Nights on Friday-Saturday, April 24-25. Everyone is invited to enjoy jazz influences performed by players young and old, while supporting the ongoing fund in his name that donates to Salt Spring school music programs.

"Ray was a great musician, playing many instruments well, but his personal faves were his tenor sax and vibraphones," said his daughter Sue Newman.

"As well, his songwriting was lyrical and rhythmic, having been strongly influenced by the Latin wave of music that hit the '60s scene."

Sue Newman said her father enjoyed his many years of making music in southern California, Victoria, Vancouver and his adored Salt Spring home, where he played with Gary Lundy, Bill Smith, Stu Salmond, Doug Rhodes, Ian Van Wyck, Derrick Milton and his musical and life partner, Virginia, and the rest of the Newman family.

The April 24-25 events run from 7 to 10 p.m., promising fine music, food and nostalgia, plus a glimpse of some musicians of tomorrow.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXHIBIT

Rites of Spring show inspires fresh touch for guild

Artists add literal 'new dimensions' to their work

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The annual spring show of the Salt Spring Painters Guild is always a welcome sign of the turning season as the members' personal takes on the theme produce treats for the eyes in leaf and flower.

With this year's theme, organizer Nixe Gerbitz said she hoped to see something new from guild members.

Encouraging the painters to bring in large-scale pieces was one of the strategies that certainly makes for an impressive show at ArtSpring.

And while local nature scenes still provide great subject matter for many of the paintings, several artists chose to get experimental with their technique, with some interesting results.

Mixed-media works have taken the forefront of this show, reflecting in some cases the results of successful workshops during the guild's weekly meetings. With the addition of paper onto the canvas' surface or the incorporation of found objects into a lifelike scene, this season the artists have literally added another dimension to their work.

Pami Sira's extremely close view of a single iris blossom is one that marries collage and painting, adding tangible depth and texture to the petals.

Deirdre Tessman's use of multimedia is difficult to detect in Spring, a scene of a cottage on a Salt Spring morning, but her skill in rendering the early light is admirable as always.

Jeanne Allen's Floral is a monotype with something of the air of Alphonse Mucha's Art Nouveau prints, although much simpler in focus and design. Gorgeous vermillion poppy heads are set against a turquoise background and a black vase — the blossoms glow as if lit from behind.

Bert Small employs a different approach with two water-colour paintings cut into panels and set at varying depths of vision. Fish Dock in Maine moves toward the viewer like a wave rolling from left to right. Into the Woods panels move in symmetry from the front to the back, drawing the eye into the forest's depths. Painted in a very light impressionist style, the forest takes on an illusion of depth and movement.

Elehna de Sousa's Ebb Tide is a work of textile art on silk chiffon. Her fibres create a soft bed of seaweed in natural brown tones set off with a touch of green. Nestled in the



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Artists Jeanne Allen, left, and Diane Mortensen are seen with some of their work at a current painters' guild show at ArtSpring.

folds are tiny gifts found by the sea, including actual clam shells and a little red crab.

Harold Stone's Sam McGee creates a lifelike, miniature scene on canvas with painted mountains and a river that has a bed of real stones. Glazed ceramic pieces add a tiny figure of McGee, sled dogs and a cabin.

Other artists who have stayed closer to painting nonetheless have a fresh approach suitable for spring. Victoria Olchowecki's Tulip Fields in acrylic are almost abstract, taking the horizontal and diagonal lines of the fields in brilliant oranges, yellows and vermillion. The low hills in the background contrast nature's uneven line with man's ordered grids.

Ann Hignell's Ruckle Park February Morning employs

deep, rich tones to evoke the mystery of the forest. The light comes through dissolving fog in soft violet, while the tangle of trunks, ferns and leaves has a vivid intensity. Another nice scene of poppies (I admit I'm a fan of the flower) is Maureen Walker's Poppy Balance. Painted with dye on silk, the close view of three huge flower heads is set against a soft purple wash.

Jamie B. Morris has created a dreamy storybook look in The Farmer's Daughter's House in pastel. The house in middle ground is overwhelmed by dark trees in the foreground, while a full moon rises in the early evening sky.

And Jose Campbell's Some Nice Cow, That One has such personality that it could only be described as a portrait, as its subject gazes into the viewer's eyes.

Relay for Life Luminary Table

Saturdays 10:00am – 1:00pm at the market

Tuesdays 3:00pm – 6:00pm at Country Grocer

Please come by, buy your luminaries, pick up a registration form, ask questions about the Relay, or sign up to volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Carin Perrins at

westmoon@saltspring.com

Thank you for supporting the Relay for Life!

INTERNATIONAL AID

SOLID event offers project updates

Slideshow at Ango Retreat on Saturday

Islanders who have been involved with SOLID and other interested parties can learn more about the group's activities in Africa with a slideshow presentation on Saturday, April 25.

SOLID members Dr. Candace Cole, James Mujuru and Melanie Furman will host a discussion on three of the community-led projects in Africa that SOLID is working with at Ango Retreat, 340 LePage Road, at 7:30 p.m.

This past year, Cole and her husband Eric Field travelled to Kenya and Swaziland, while Mujuru travelled back to Zimbabwe to follow up and chart the successes of the work being accomplished.

Images of shining faces and wide landscapes will be brought to life with stories of the chal-

lenges and successes of these valuable projects.

The fight against female genital mutilation is spearheaded by Agnes Pareyio, a speaker at SOLID's 2006 conference. She is a Kenyan Maasai woman who suffered FGM and early marriage at age 14, and began to walk from village to village, speaking against FGM and for girls' education. Cole describes Pareyio as "amazingly effective in untangling the knot of this cultural practice that had bound generations of young girls to the trauma of genital mutilation."

Recently Cole and Field visited Tasaru Girls Rescue network in Kenya and followed up on the educational outreach, recent successes and on-going needs of the centre. They will share how Salt Spring Islanders are improving the lives of these young, courageous girls.

Travelling then to Swaziland

to visit Khamboke School for Orphans, Field and Cole reconnected with Sipho Mamba, another courageous leader who was present at the SOLID conference in 2006.

In the past year, SOLID raised funds for the building of a health care centre where volunteer nurses are working to tend to the orphans and neighbouring community.

Masango Cultural Centre, which was founded by Mujuru at the end of 2007, is well on its way to becoming the pivotal meeting place for the community in Seke.

With awareness and funds raised by SOLID in the past year, Mujuru and the people of Seke constructed a cob and thatch community centre, dug wells to quell the cholera outbreak and formed committees to bring the vision of sustainability to fruition.

ELECTRONICA

Interchill Records welcomes Liquid Stranger

Beaver Point Hall event marks DJ's return

Salt Spring's Interchill Records is pleased to announce the return of Liquid Stranger to the island on Saturday evening.

The Sweden-based musician introduced islanders to his unique blend of beats and rhythms last summer during his first visit to Canada.

Liquid Stranger's style of electronic music features energetic dance floor material that

combines elements of dubstep, breaks, ragga, tribal and glitch, according to a release about the current tour.

"Liquid Stranger's sound is sure to be an otherworldly excursion into bass-driven live electronica," states the release.

"Live, the Liquid Stranger enters the stage with a stash bag full of trippy dubstep and wobbly adventures for everyone with ears — an ever-growing performance from a man with a passion for the unexpected."

Interchill Records is an inde-

pendent electronic music label headed by Andrew Ross Collins and based on Salt Spring and Nelson, B.C. that has developed an international reputation in the global electronica scene.

The Salt Spring event caps off a five-city tour of Alberta and British Columbia.

Tickets for the all-ages show cost \$15 and are available at the door.

The music starts on Saturday, April 25 at 9 p.m. at Beaver Point Hall.

Canadian Cancer Society



Canadian Cancer Society

2009 Relay For Life

Friday, May 29th, 7 pm to Saturday, May 30th, 7 am, Portlock Park