



Salt Spring Literacy

Learn. Grow. Succeed.

Salt Spring Literacy is a not-for-profit agency promoting literacy on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands.

News and Views

February 2015

Friends of Salt Spring Literacy

*Birgit & Robert Bateman
Arthur Black & Lynne Raymond
Black Sheep Books
Country Grocer
James T. Fogarty
Peter & Mary Grove
Hastings House
Mouat's Trading Co. Ltd.
Sylvia Ommanney
Stan Shapiro*

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Inaugural Newsletter Welcome Gail Sjuberg

Hello --

You're receiving this newsletter because you took the plunge to become a member of the Salt Spring Literacy Society. For some of you, membership is not a new thing, while many more joined after being encouraged to do so on Giant Book Sale weekend in November.

Not only is your financial support through a membership purchase greatly appreciated, but being able to state that we have 84 members is an asset for any grant applications we make. Even more important, though, is that a not-for-profit society like ours cannot thrive without a healthy membership base. If you are not already involved with Salt Spring Literacy as a learner, tutor or book sale volunteer, we invite you to participate in any way that may be comfortable for you. At Salt Spring Literacy, every skill and kindness shared and every small step taken is valued and celebrated.

I would like to give special acknowledgement to members who are Friends of Salt Spring Literacy, those who responded to our request last fall to donate at least \$100 to the society. Individuals and businesses can become Friends at any time of the year by contacting any board member.

We are thrilled to announce that Hastings House Country House Hotel is our newest Friend of Literacy. We will be holding a fundraising afternoon tea event there on Wednesday, March 4th. Attendees will learn more about Salt Spring Literacy's activities in the community and meet our special guest - award-winning author Kathy Page, whose most recent book, *Paradise & Elsewhere*, was nominated for the prestigious Giller Prize. We will send out more details about the event shortly, but for now we hope you will save the date and plan to join us on March 4th at Hastings House.

Future newsletters will include information about new programs, fundraisers, literacy and learning topics, and the people of Salt Spring Literacy. Thank you to my fellow board member Connie Brett for coordinating this newsletter.



Salt Spring Literacy Board and Staff

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Gail Sjuberg | Board Chair | Eva Kuhn | Board Treasurer |
| Pat Campbell | Board Vice-Chair | Connie Brett | Board Member |
| Kim Ballantyne | Board Secretary | | |

Aletha Humphreys - Executive Director
Stella Weinert - Educator

It's Amazing What Volunteers Can Do!

Salt Spring Literacy's annual Giant Book Sale is certainly a giant undertaking on many levels. The annual three-day event in November fills the Farmers' Institute with gently used books of all genres. This past sale saw over 1200 visitors to the event. Few people left empty-handed and dozens left laden with books, some literally by the box load, a couple by the car load. Proceeds raised from the sale are critical to new program development at Literacy as, unlike much appreciated government grants, these funds are unrestricted and allow us to address unmet literacy needs in the community. This year, funds from the Giant Book Sale are assisting us to pilot a one-to-one reading program for

school age children and their families.

None of this would be possible without the amazing efforts, enthusiasm, and passion of our volunteers. Work on the book sale begins early in the year with the volunteer planning committee. Over the course of the year volunteers collect, transport, sort, recycle, clean, pack, store, transport and set-up thousands of books. Over 80 volunteers collectively contributed over 1000 hours to deliver the 2014 sale. With the exception of books that were accepted too late to sort and categorise this year, all books were scrupulously checked to ensure they were in sale-quality

condition. If needed, covers were dusted or wiped down, tears and nicks repaired and loose bindings were glued. Books that did not make the cut due to mold or excessive wear and tear were recycled.

A frequently asked question is what happens to the books that are left at the end of the sale.

The remaining books were re-packed and transported to Duncan to meet the Discover Books collection truck. Discover Books distributes books to other community-based organisations.

So, every year we start fresh. Come this November our hope is to once again fill the Farmers' Institute with an equally



impressive collection of books and raise funds to continue our program development. Planning for this year's sale will start shortly. Please contact Aletha at Salt Spring Literacy if you're interested in being part of the volunteer team. It's a lot of work but great fun with a wonderful team of people and for a very good cause.

In Our Own Words:

Learners & Tutors Reflect On Their Work Together

Sayori, an ESL learner from Japan, has worked weekly with her tutor Jill, a retired ESL teacher, for ten months. Their sessions at the centre are full of both focused work together and laughter. Here they comment about the experience.

Sayori: It was difficult for me to choose the right preposition but I was taught well by Jill so I'm good at it now.

I work at a clothing store and there are many different situations where I need to speak English to help my customers. Jill taught me what to say in these situations and after the class I used this language right away. Every class Jill chose a few words for me to practice pronunciation. I try to practice every day, even when driving my car. I can say that my pronunciation is much better now. I appreciate SSI Literacy and Jill so much.

Jill: I really enjoy working together with Sayori to improve her communication skills in English. We have lots of fun in class, and she is so diligent about practising her spoken English that improvement is noticeably fast. What helps her most of all is the relevancy and immediacy of her situation. She is able to practice new words or phrases or idioms in the privacy of the classroom and then immediately use the new language in the real world of work and community. We also practice numeracy, reading and writing skills, and learn grammar through playing games.

Like Sayori, I also appreciate SSI Literacy for the vital role they are playing in raising the level of literacy in the community.

