

## whats on at mahon hall

**WINTERCRAFT** runs December 5 to 21. Open daily 10am-5pm

**Fusion Fitness** on Monday's continues in January. Call Rani: 250 653 0019

**Stagecoach** School for the Performing Arts children's dance classes return on Wednesdays in September. Call 538-7494 for info.

**Mahon Hall** is now taking rentals for 2009 with special rates for Arts Council members. Call Trish at 537-0899 for details/availability.

**For Sale:** 2 computer monitors. Call Trish.: 537-0899

## in the news

**ArtFun Tuesday, 2 December,** 7pm (Pot luck). An evening devoted to hands-on art practice with creative fun in mind. Venue: 131 Leslie Drive. Contact: Gillian: 250-537-5833 or gillian@artbygillian.com

**ArtForum Tuesday 9 December,** 7pm (pot luck). Venue: #6 124 Valhalla Road. Contact: Gillian: 250 537-5833 or gillian@artbygillian.com

**A Celebration of December** - Recital by Rasma Bertz featuring a musical calendar of festivals from Advent to New Year's Eve. Wednesday, 3rd December, 12:10pm, All Saints Anglican Church, Salt Spring, Music & Munch. Entry is free (donations welcomed) or purchase yummy lunch for \$5.50

**Acrylic Painting Workshop** with Dominik Modlinski at the Jupiter Ranch Art Studio, Gabriola Island. For all painters to expand their knowledge of acrylic painting techniques while enhancing their perception & creative visualization. Feb 21, 22 & 23 2009 Fee: \$225. Call: 250-247-2051 or jupiterranch@shaw.ca www.jupiterranch.com or: www.paintingjourneys.com

**Photographs by Megan Manning** At Salt Spring Books through Feb. 2009



## salt spring arts council

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On Sight - how new trustees can support the arts on Salt Spring.

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# Salt Spring's Holiday Mantra

From my desk in Santa's Workshop - Vivienne Pearson

Christmas is a simple holiday. After all, what other holiday do we attend in robes and pajamas? Certainly the pursuit of the simple life is nothing new. People are modifying everyday, becoming more conscious of what they eat, drive and buy.

Christmas craft fairs are a wonderful alternative to escape the commercial fuss at this time of year and an excellent way to find special, handmade gifts for family & friends.

Around the world there are many ways to celebrate the holiday season and for millions of people, traditions include the making of fine crafts. Crafts can be a productive, peaceful refuge from the crush of holiday parties and the pressures of the season.



Santa Arrives at Mahon Hall for last years' Meet Santa event. Photo: Megan Manning

**WinterCraft** embodies all that is Salt Spring tradition and provides the widest selection of locally produced, quality craft items. Our 41st season represents 82 Gulf Island artists with 15 new participants offering everything from uplifting LuLu lights to designer clothing to confections, natural body & bath products and Islandware.

Living simply means selecting what "essential luxuries" truly matter to you, rather than giving up the frills all together. Here's my Holiday Mantra/Recipe:- **Slow Down** - when you are flying through life, nothing is an experience. Only when we slow down can we know whether something brings us satisfaction.

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# Board Members Needed

by The Editor

When I moved to the island two years ago, I was shell shocked and culture shocked! I'd been living in the UK for 13 years, so although the weather was the same, everything else was different. The day after I arrived, I went to an Art Opening at Judy Mitchell Gallery & Gary Cherneff walked right up to me and said "you need to be on the Arts Council Board."

I can say that it was a great way to jump straight into the Salt Spring Arts community and get involved. I met other artists, I networked and it helped to ground me in the community. Although my life is a lot busier now, I still enjoy being on the council and keeping in touch with what's going on.

Now is your chance to join the Board of the Salt Spring Arts Council - contact Gary by e-mail: [cherneff@telus.net](mailto:cherneff@telus.net)

## **SS Arts Council would like to thank sponsors:**

The BC Arts Council  
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## On Sight - by Gary Cherneff

### Questions for Our New Trustees:

The Canada Council for the Arts states: "Arts and cultural activities make an impressive contribution to the economy – close to \$40 billion to Canada's gross domestic product, and they employ roughly 600,000 people. Exports of Canadian cultural products, increased by 80 per cent between 1996 and 2005, reaching \$2.4 billion, and there is tremendous potential for greater growth. About 37% of households spent money on live performing arts events compared to 19% of households who spent some money on live sporting events."

On my little peninsula, accessed by Long Harbour Rd., there was, at last count, over 20 professional artists' studios. This does not include the grouping at Merchant Mews on Upper Ganges Rd. . On Salt Spring, artists can be credited with being a primary attraction to both tourists and intelligent sophisticated urbanites

*What initiatives would you introduce to ensure that artists are able to live and prosper in this community and continue to be a significant part of its economy, life style and unique culture?*

who want to move here to be near that level of cultural excellence. Our Arts community is the envy of neighboring communities.

The success of the Saturday Market, the Studio Tour and ArtCraft are testaments to the drawing power of our arts community. Realtors, Restaurants, Commercial Galleries, Hotels and B&B's all understand this and benefit in significant ways. Each imported cultural dollar spent on the arts is multiplied many fold on other goods and services. Yet we have no economic policy to ensure the sustainability of this extraordinary clean and green human resource industry.

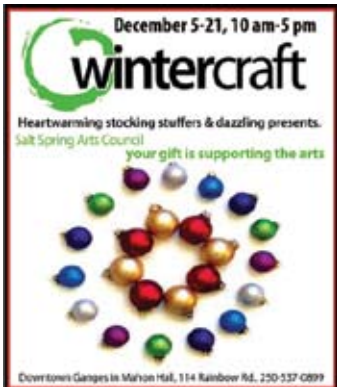
Recent economic downturns have compromised the health of our arts community over the long term. Neighboring communities are

aggressively competing with us for a declining cultural tourism dollar. Land values and rental rates are far lower on Vancouver Island. Our community continues to be more expensive to live in. Many of our artists, who are economically marginal at the best of times, will be experiencing more stress as time goes on. Without an inspired economic and tourism policy to counter the investment that competing communities are making in their cultural sectors, we could be looking at a far different type of community in 10 or 20 years.

Two more questions to prospective trustees:  
**Do** you accept that the social, cultural, and ecological health of this community rests on its ability to sustain the livelihoods of a socially, occupationally and intellectually diverse population?  
**What** kind of time line can we expect from you on an action plan?

*Do you accept that on Salt Spring, the Arts community has to be a major part of any economic plan?*

Gary Cherneff - Artist and Salt Spring resident for 34 years



**Continued from Front Page:**

*Focus On The Positive* - ask yourself if something gives you energy or drains you. What makes you feel lighter, energized and excited?

*Say It Out Loud* - talking is a form of reflection, a way to check in with the feelings that help determine what is essential.

*Visualize A Simpler Life* - make a list of things you spend too much time, energy and money on. Then make a list of things you wish you could do, have or be. Imagine ways to create your authentic life ~ one that will bring you the most joy.



Cookie Making was popular at last year's Meet Santa Event. photo: Megan Manning

*from the desk of ArtCraft*  
by Vivianne Pearson, Manager

# ArtCraft - All Wrapped Up



It is calming to make something of your own that reveals a handmade goodness. One's creative ideas mixed with experimentation in the studio encourages a kind of "play within problem solving." Making things gladdens the heart. The more ideas one develops into something to share, the more decisive and skilled each craftsperson becomes.

The successful 2008 ArtCraft season was due to the skilled efforts of approximately 100 Southern Gulf Island artists, dedicated ArtCraft Committee members and extraordinary staff: Trish Wheeler and Josephine Duffy.

The SSI community and

visitors appreciated seven, well-attended Showcase openings, each sponsored by local business. We achieved last year's revenues, despite a turndown in tourists visiting the island and the impending recession. We also increased our display components. As we move forward under the auspices of the Salt Spring Arts Council, I anticipate very good things for ArtCraft.

Prepare to be part of the process in the upcoming year. As we discover the contentment of creating, building and working together - we also find the world a richer place.



Textile Showcase - 'Voice in Three Strands, July 2008 photo: Megan Manning

saltspringisland  
**artcraft**

## Call for Entry

**Haiku Invitational** Deadline: December 19, 2008. Submit one unpublished haiku about the cherry blossom in the spirit of international friendship for the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival. Details: [www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca).

3rd Annual **Caroun Photo Club Photography Exhibition** 2008 in North Vancouver. Subject: 'Close Up.' Deadline: Dec. 25. Info: [Exhibition2008@Caroun.com](mailto:Exhibition2008@Caroun.com) or: [www.Caroun.com/News](http://www.Caroun.com/News)

**CAA CanWrite!** Contest deadline: February 2009 Check the Canadian Authors' Association website: [www.canauthors.org](http://www.canauthors.org)

**Stratford Shakespeare Festival Auditions:** 2009/2010. Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre held in February 2009 in Vancouver. For info: [www.theatrebc.org/press/classfids](http://www.theatrebc.org/press/classfids)

**The Wearable Art Awards** Artists of all mediums submit evocative, imaginative creations. Deadline March 6, 2009. Info: [www.wearableartawards.com](http://www.wearableartawards.com).

**Mother Tongue Seeks Great BC Novel.** Deadline: May 31, 2009 [www.movertonguepublishing.com](http://www.movertonguepublishing.com) [mona@movertonguepublishing.com](mailto:mona@movertonguepublishing.com)

**Banff Centre Production Residencies for B.C. Artists** offering B.C.-based professional artists the opportunity to create a new work in dance, music, opera, theatre or interdisciplinary. info: [www.bcartsCouncil.ca](http://www.bcartsCouncil.ca)

**BC Arts Council** Grant deadlines: [www.bcartsCouncil.ca/programs](http://www.bcartsCouncil.ca/programs)

The **Canada Council for the Arts** For information on their grants, & submission instructions, go to: [www.canadacouncil.ca/grants/calendar/Deadline](http://www.canadacouncil.ca/grants/calendar/Deadline).

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## Become a member

Enjoy this newsletter regularly and other great benefits by becoming a member of the Salt Spring Arts Council - Support the arts in your community and apply for membership - individual \$20, full time student \$15, supporting group or guild \$32.10, friend - up to \$99, contributor - \$100-249, sustainer - \$250-499, patron - \$500-999. Phone 250-537-0899 for assistance or visit our website [www.gulfislandsartscouncil.com](http://www.gulfislandsartscouncil.com) - New members are always welcome!

Salt Spring Arts Council  
114 Rainbow Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
V8K2V5

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Please submit to addressee:

**The SSAC newsletter** is published 4 times a year. Please submit your ideas & articles by email to: [manningburton@gmail.com](mailto:manningburton@gmail.com), headed "newsletter item"  
Editor & layout: Megan Manning  
Design: Diane Weatherby  
Printing: Barnyard Grafix

### SS Arts Council Board

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V.P.- Rineke Jonker 537-1923  
Treasurer - tbd  
Secretary - Ralph Bischoff 538-0110  
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[www.ssartscouncil.com](http://www.ssartscouncil.com)

### New & Returning Members:

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