



Salt Spring Island/ Mayne Island Branches

THE GIFT EXCHANGE

4th Quarter, 2005

Issue 39

News from Grandma's House:

Since our last newsletter, the generous owner of Grandma's House, Albin Gemperle, who had been in Greenwoods for some time, passed on to his reward. Our sincere sympathy to his family and gratitude to Alfred for carrying on house maintenance and for compassionate dealings with the occupants at the House.

However the family has decided to sell the house and we are praying that someone with a social conscience will purchase it so that our work of housing homeless men on Salt Spring Island can continue.

Should anyone be interested in exploring this possibility of working with the Human Exchange and taking part in 'the exchange of life's gifts' would they please contact us through the pager :
1-800-691-9366 (from SSI) or 361-2762 (from Greater Victoria.) Thank you.

Community Chest--Thrifty Foods:

Please remember to quote #104 (SSI branch of the VHES) when shopping at Thrifty Foods.

Ganges Village Market:

When shopping at Ganges Village Market, please keep your receipts and hand in regularly to us. At Grandma's House in a marked envelope, or page 1-800-691-9366 for pick up.

Things we would be glad to receive:

Stainless steel electric wok and/or stainless steel electric frying pan for use by volunteer providing lunch on drop-in basis for persons in need. Also kitchen linens (tea-towels and dish cloths). Thank you!

Please see Christmas wish-list in Victoria newsletter.

News from St Francis Memorial Chapel, Mayne Island

The **Pot-luck and Chapel Celebration on October 15** were very well attended and we thank all those who took part, sharing wonderful food, and supporting one another in so many ways--a truly communal and loving experience! Comments included: *What a sacred place. I feel so safe here. So many caring people! This is true community! Thanks for inviting me.*

We are grateful for the Workshops offered by Maureen Omness on **Sharing the Spiritual Journey.**

All Chapel Gatherings are preceded by potluck lunch at 11.45am -- ALL WELCOME

More information: 539-5310 or in Victoria 361-2762 - Car-pooling and ferry tickets available.

We thank all those who have made very generous donations to the work of the **Mayne Island Branch of the Human Exchange**, the Society that emphasizes the importance of *sharing life's gifts*. We also thank those who bring or send food and gifts for the Chapel Gatherings.

"Every meeting of persons can be an exchange of life's gifts--a Human Exchange"

Sincere thanks to:

- **The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island** for generous ongoing monthly assistance. Secretary Amy for her continuing readiness to support our needs in any way possible.
- **The Youth of the Gospel Community Church** for gardening at Bittancourt Manor.
- **Eunie V.** for supporting the folk in the two Salt Spring Houses and networking with businesses.
- **Rob at All Island Septic** for discount price to owner on pumping septic tank at one house.
- *Financial supporters:* **Margaret B.** for monthly assistance with rent; **Mark S.** of Pender Island for monthly donation for needs of people with mental illness; **Catholic Women's League** of OLOG;
- **Irene C.** for numerous gifts, carefully labelled and packed with care.
- **Margaret B.** for gift of exercise bike in response to last newsletter's request. Also many beautiful note cards and household goods.
- **Diane P.** for regularly, all year round, dropping off gifts at Grandma's House and for all your readiness to 'exchange life's gifts' over the years since VHES came to SaltSpring Island in 1994.
- **Macie P.** for continuing generous advocacy for persons in need; for her lunch program; for bread pick-up and for work as a Board member.
- **Farrell F.** for assistance with obtaining computer software. **Robin F.** for computer for Macie.
- **Embe Bakery, GVM** for baked goods and **GVM** for Grocery tape program.
- **Thrifty Foods** for two chickens to help celebrate Thanksgiving at the Houses.
- **Marg H.; Tom M.; Betty B.; Macie P. and Scott** for bread pick-up and distribution.
- **Imagen** for continued Internet Access for our Gulf Islands Branches.
- **Copper Kettle** for gifts to Grandma's House..
- **Alfred G. and Colleen B.** our landlords for maintenance, patience and support.
- **All the Occupants of the Houses** who take such good care of house and grounds.
- **All Salt Spring businesses** who assist from time to time.
- **All those whose names we have missed but who have 'shared life's gifts'. We thank you!**

MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH:

- **ALEA Design and Print** for donating the printing of 200 brochures to the Society.
- **Joanna W.** and the **Mayne Isl. Thrift Store** for bags of linens and other items.
- **Sylvia I.** for fresh produce--much appreciated--and electric stove.
- **Diana L** for clothing, furniture, toiletries (Susan S.) wool and knitting needles, and electronic equipment. **Myra C.** for clothing and linens.
- *Financial donations* from **Yvette B.; Patricia F.**
- **Irene H.** for facilitating the gift of love-seats from a neighbour's home.
- **Wayne T.** for hauling furniture from Mayne to Sidney and Victoria and for other assistance.
- **Sunny Mayne Bakery** for baked goods and soups.
- **St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church** and several Service clubs for support of different kinds.
- **Anita K. and Katje** for clothing and linens, toys and books. and Anita's wonderful jam.
- **Bev N.** for toiletries and clothing picked up by Yvette.
- **Walter H** for a bag of plums freshly picked. And delivered by Yvette.
- **Maureen O.** for facilitating workshops in St Francis Memorial Chapel.
- **Pat McG.** for more great zucchini loaves for enjoyment at St Francis Chapel celebrations.
- **Audrey and Alan S.** for picking up and delivering donations of all kinds.
- **Joyce K.** for boxes of produce and goats' milk soap! Also much loving support.
- **Joan S.** for chest of drawers and offer of hide-a-bed. **Angela P.** for desk and couch.
- **Pender Island Cable and Internet** for high speed Internet at half price to our Society.
- **Emily and Jacob B.** for clothing, linens, footwear and toys cheerfully delivered.
- **Chris M. and Margaret H.** for items of furniture when they were leaving the Island.
- **Irene H.** for warm woollen blankets; clothing and other household items over many years.
- **Yvette** for networking with the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store; sharing blankets and apples.
- **Monica of MonicaWorks** for donating a new look Web-site--nearly complete .
- *All who have dropped off goods anonymously or whom we missed. We thank you all.*

In the Gulf Islands, Monetary gifts may be mailed to:

SSI Branch VHES c/o 358 Fulford-Ganges Rd, SaltSpring Island BC, V8K 2K6
Donations of food, clothing or other items may also be brought to this address.